

wedding planning + boundary setting

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@TAPESTRYEVENTCO

These are four of
the healthiest
boundaries you
can draw and
maintain during
your wedding
planning
experience.

financial expectations

Wedding budgeting is its own container where you can set a goal and track progress together. It requires regular accountability, clear communication, and flexibility; all skills that benefit the health of a relationship!

But what happens when a third party — like parents or other well-intentioned financial contributors — try and enter that container unasked? We can tell you from experience that it can create friction, miscommunication, and stress.

How do you prevent or mediate those outcomes? Lead a conversation with third parties about their financial participation in your event. Here are three easy steps to follow...

financial expectations

Get clear about the offer.

What are they wanting to contribute to your event or experience?

How do they see themselves going about it?

financial expectations

Externalize expectations.

Do you have to spend the money a certain way, or on certain things, if you accept the funds?

How much participation do they expect to have in the process?

financial expectations

Accept or reject the offer.

If the offer + expectations are workable, then you can feel good accepting the financial support. If it isn't a fit, kindly turn down the offer and retain your autonomy over your values + your experience.

Whatever the outcome, show gratitude for their interest in your experience.

inclusion policy

Folks have diverse needs when attending an event. Some people need information to help them travel successfully. Some people need information to navigate their health accommodations confidently. And some people need a little extra nudge to understand how they can set themselves up to joyfully participate in an event.

More and more, we have couples writing an *Inclusion Policy* on their wedding website to help their guests understand what to expect at, and how to support, their celebration. Here are the things to consider in writing that policy so that guests can respect your wishes...

inclusion policy

Explain what is welcome + encouraged at your event.

What do you hope to share with your guests, physically or emotionally?

inclusion policy

*Explain what is prohibited
from your event.*

Alcohol or other substances?

Racism, misogyny, homophobia,
ableism? Rude or offensive
language?

Political discourse?

Explicit health requirements or
considerations?

inclusion policy

State that anyone who does not feel they can uphold these celebration expectations are welcome to toast to your marriage privately at another time and venue.

party expectations

For many, the roles and expectations of certain wedding party members feels proscriptive. We assume that X role is in charge of Y tasks, yes?

Well, that old formula is not doing anyone any favors. Wedding parties take a lot of varied shapes and sizes. Leaving expectations undefined for anyone involved in your wedding only sets y'all up to be on different pages, doesn't make anyone feel seen or successful, and leads you to navigate a more confusing and awkward conversation to patch things up later (or not...yikes!).

Let's talk about what makes a successful invitation to participate in a special way in your wedding festivities!

party expectations

*Invite your person to take
on a special role.*

Whether they've been waiting for this invite since you were children, or if it's a pleasant surprise, make sure you frame your invitation as an ask rather than an assumed "Yes".

party expectations

*Define what that role
means to you.*

Let's not lean on tradition and
settle for vague titles.

Be clear about what this role
means in the pre-event, day-of,
and post-event stages of your
wedding journey.

party expectations

*Describe what experiences +
actions you want to share
with them.*

Do you want a bridesmaid to be
in charge of something? Do you
have a vision in mind, or
do you want them to carry
the experience?

The more explicit you can be,
the better!

party expectations

*Give them time to accept or
turn down the invitation.*

For an ask to truly be an ask, it
requires the other person to
freely answer.

If they don't have an answer
right away, that's okay. Give
them space to let them decide.

outside input

Say the word “wedding” and the thing you’ll encounter the most is OPINIONS. Everyone has an opinion about that wedding they attended, a story to share from their own wedding, or a feature-length film drama about that time they were in that wedding party.

Opinions will fly when you start to plan a wedding and, quite frankly, they can be both uninvited and unwelcome. But unless you’re super clear about when you’re registering opinions (and not), it can be hard for other folks to turn off the faucet around you.

How do you handle that? Here are our top three tips...

outside input

Select the people whose opinions matter and clarify what is important to them.

Think about this like trying on advice. What do they think is beautiful? What kind of cool experiences can they share? What would they heartily recommend you avoid?

outside input

*Do not commit to anyone
else's advice, values,
or input.*

Listen with compassion for their
experience and gratitude that
they took the time to share.

outside input

*Match advice up against
your values.*

Take what other people give you
and decide what parts, if any,
apply to your circumstances and
will benefit the experience you
want to have with your partner.



Wedding planning
is an amazing
opportunity for
couples to learn +
exercise important
skills that'll be used
throughout their
relationship.

Follow these
boundary setting
tips and you'll be
well on your way
to creating a
wedding that truly
reflects you and
your values!

