

WHO'S YOUR DJ?

AND OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK BEFORE BOOKING A WEDDING DJ

1. Will YOU be the DJ at our wedding?

Often, the person you speak with is not the person who will be your DJ on your wedding day. This is a very common practice among large agencies. It is absolutely paramount that you have an opportunity to interview the DJ that you will be working with and determine whether you feel comfortable with them. You should also expect that the individual DJ's name is specified on your contract - it is the only way you can be guaranteed his or her services at your wedding.

2. Do you work exclusively for this company?

Most large agencies use independent DJ subcontractors to perform their events. Often, these DJs work for several agencies and also accept bookings directly. A disc jockey, or the agency through whom he is booked, should be able to explain the DJ's obligation to that agency and what will happen if he leaves that agency. Other concerns if you choose a DJ who subcontracts for several agencies and books his own events include what will happen if he accidentally is double-booked for your wedding date, and what will happen to your event if you contract the DJ through an agency and he decides to skip out on your event to book something else for a higher price. To find out whether your DJ is available independently or through numerous agencies, you may want to perform a web search for their name and the word "DJ".

3. May we meet with you in person before we sign a contract?

Many wedding DJs attempt to conduct their interviews over the telephone and through email instead of meeting face-to-face with prospective clients. In my experience, there are two reasons a disc jockey would do this – either they don't feel you are worth their time, or they have something to hide. Some deejays are very different in person than on the telephone and what is presented on their website, and you should insist on meeting face-to-face so you can judge for yourself whether they are a good match for you and your wedding.

4. Do you offer a written contract?

All of the wedding disc jockeys you interview may not have the same standards of professionalism. A written, legal contract is one of the first indicators of whether a DJ is professional and reliable. Furthermore, a contract establishes the DJ's obligation to the client and outlines what is required for the DJ's success, by outlining his setup requirements and other factors related to his performance. For this reason, a written contract is absolutely essential and any DJ not using a written contract should not, in my opinion, be considered for a wedding reception.

5. Are you insured?

God forbid anything were to happen to one of your guests that was the fault of your DJ (lights/speakers "can" fall, etc.) However, if your DJ isn't insured and your guest decides to take civil action, where are they going to turn? If your DJ isn't insured, they are a fly-by-night company that is putting YOU at risk. There are some things that are just fundamental must-haves to be a legitimate DJ. This is one of them.

6. How do you dress for an event?

Believe it or not, I have seen disc jockeys who dress in jeans - a formal suit is a must! Pallo Entertainment DJs wear tuxedo suits to all wedding receptions. We are front and center at your reception, and want to put our best foot forward—especially because we end up in so many of your wedding reception photos! Do you take, encourage and PLAY requests? Too many disc jockeys play only what they want to hear and are not receptive to requests. Our opinion is that when a guest requests a song, they are actually asking permission to dance. Any DJ that will not take requests is doing a disservice to your event. We believe that the music at your reception should be a reflection of your and your guests' musical tastes—NOT the musical tastes of your DJ. No two wedding receptions are the same—nor should the music be the same for all receptions.

8. Do you offer all-inclusive pricing?

So many DJs charge extra for dinner music. Who wants to hear the sound of clinking dishes? Of course Pallo Entertainment only offers one package—two DJs, and all of the audio and lighting needed to execute your event for AS LONG AS YOU NEED US! We have done wedding receptions until two in the morning! We don't charge extra for more time. Period.

9. Is your equipment fully backed up (and for that matter are YOU)?

If a piece of equipment should happen to break, what happens next? Will there be significant downtime while someone brings backup equipment? What is the plan if your DJ were to fall ill the day of your wedding, or, even worse, at your reception? We have on site backup equipment and even a second DJ. You can't beat that.

10. How long will you hold a date for us?

Don't trust a DJ who pressures you to sign a contract on the spot. That's shady, and they are only doing that to keep you from coming across the room to talk to us. They know that once you talk to Pallo Entertainment, you will know that you have found the best. If they tell you that your wedding date might be booked by the time you leave the wedding expo so you need to book now, RUN—don't just walk--AWAY from them. Anyone who isn't confident to let a customer shop around for a wedding DJ doesn't deserve your trust in the first place.

11. How long have you been a DJ and how many weddings have you done?

A wedding is such an important occasion, and you should only trust an experienced disc jockey to provide entertainment at a wedding. The number of years someone has been a DJ will give you some indication of their experience level, but some DJs only perform for a few events (and fewer weddings) each year. A DJ with half as many years in the industry may have many times as many weddings under his belt, so you should ask how many weddings the DJ has done.

Sources:

<http://dj-soundconcepts.com/top-10-questions-for-a-wedding-dj/>

<http://theabsoluteweddingdj.blogspot.com/2011/12/top-10-questions-to-ask-your-wedding-dj.html>

