

Important questions to ask when choosing a Wedding DJ/Emcee

Do you belong to a professional organization or trade group?

Although belonging to an organization or trade group does not guarantee the talent or professionalism of a disc jockey, it may indicate the company's willingness to network, learn and grow. Disc jockeys can learn through local chapter meetings, national DJ conventions and seminars geared toward the entertainment professional.

Booking a reliable Disc Jockey is a very important decision for the success of your party. Selecting a Disc Jockey who is an active member of the American Disc Jockey Association will provide you with the confidence that you have selected a trained professional. A.D.J.A. members are more likely to be involved with other Disc Jockeys who can help them out with an unexpected situation.

How many years have they've been in business? How many wedding events per year? Can the perspective DJ/Emcee provide references?

Does the Disc Jockey know the proper etiquette for your type of party?

A professional Disc Jockey will assist you with the planning of your special day. Most professional entertainers will coordinate, emcee and provide the music that you desire. Ask if they have experience with your type of event.

How much time do you allow for set-up?

Punctuality is a necessity. Most Disc Jockeys arrive at least one to two hours prior to the start time you've given them. Your entertainer should ideally be setup and in-place before your first guest walks through the door.

Do you use Professional Equipment?

Ask whether your prospective Disc Jockey works with professional audio equipment. Professional gear does not guarantee an entertainer's talent or service level, but is simply a tool for building an exceptional event.

Do you provide backup equipment at my event?

Although equipment failure is rare, do you really want your special occasion ruined because your Disc Jockey did not come prepared? It is also important to know if your Disc Jockey has a back-up plan in case of illness or an accident. Members of the A.D.J.A. have many resources available to them in case of an emergency. You may also reach our Hotline number to get a Disc Jockey when you have an emergency. The toll-free number is 888-723-5776.

Do you offer any others services, i.e, accent/wash lighting, monogram gobos, video montages?

Will you be suitably dressed for our occasion?

Specify the type of apparel that your Disc Jockey is expected to wear for your occasion. Formal attire or coat & tie are the most popular forms of attire. If you are having a "themed" event, make sure your entertainer is informed.

Will you be willing to play requests and discuss music ahead of time?

A versatile Disc Jockey is willing to listen to your suggestions, give you feedback and play from your desired song list. A professional Disc Jockey will also accept the fact you may not want certain songs played. Optional “play” and “do not play” lists are recommended prior to the event. Permission to accept songs requests from family and guests should be agree upon prior.

Do you provide a written contract?

It is extremely important to have your booking confirmed in writing. Ask for a written agreement, especially if you are paying an initial retainer. The standard initial payment for entertainment services is 50%. If you are expecting a specific entertainer, make sure you get it in writing as well.

Are you insured? Can you supply me with proof of liability?

Many responsible business owners carry liability insurance to protect their businesses and the consumer. Many locations are beginning to require proof of liability.

Other items to note:

Disc Jockey rates vary based on talent, experience, emcee ability, service, coordination, equipment needed, knowledge, and personality.

Rates for the DJ/Emcee vary greatly, ranging from \$350.00 to over \$5,000.00 with an average of \$1,200.00 for a 4 hour booking. The best price is not always the best deal, especially if you are planning a wedding. As a matter of fact, surveys conclude that nearly 100% of brides would have spent more money on their entertainment and would have made it their #1 priority in hindsight.

A full-service disc jockey company will normally invest 12 to 30 hours to your special event but it may appear that you are only paying for “4 hours”. Consultations, music purchasing & editing, preparation, set-up and tear-down, and other business related endeavors add up to the overall success of your special occasion.