

Important Dos & Don'ts:

Do – Attend bridal shows for ideas for your wedding – most importantly, attend the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce Wedding Festival!!

(<http://www.amiweddingfestival.com>)

Do – Look for your ceremony and reception sites first – one year out is average.

Don't- choose a Vacation Rental located in a residential area or on the beach as a wedding/reception venue. You run a very good chance of having your wedding shut down by not abiding by vacation rental agreements, including violating occupancy, parking & noise restrictions. Renting a “residential” property for your reception is not appropriate and you may be required to leave on your “Special” night. There are very few homes on Anna Maria Island which legitimately allow you to hold a wedding or reception party. Remember Anna Maria Island is a mixed use residential area that has full time residents living in harmony with visitors. Weddings, Receptions or other large group gatherings held in residential neighborhoods directly conflict with why we all love Anna Maria Island so much. It is more important than ever to respect all our neighbors’ quiet enjoyment. Call the AMI Chamber if you think you have found a property that is zoned commercial and is an approved wedding or reception venue. Be sure to ask your professional rental agency as well if weddings parties are allowed. Venues located in commercially zoned areas are the best way to plan an incident free, fun wedding.

Don't – forget to get a marriage license. That is your sole responsibility. The minister or officiant

<http://www.annamariaislandchamber.org/AbouttheChamber/BusinessDirectory/WeddingsandSpecialEvents/Officiants.aspx> cannot do it for you. Ask about what information is required, costs and form of payment.

Do – contact the Manatee County, FL Clerk of the Circuit Court at 941-741-4020 to get your marriage license. To save time, complete your marriage license application online at: www.clerkofcircuitcourt.com/Services/EmarriageApp.aspx

Do – contact the City Hall in the city you plan to be married in and inquire about any necessary permits you may need. Anna Maria Island has 3 cities with similar but slightly different permitting requirements for signage, structures on the beach, bands, etc. City of Bradenton Beach – 941-778-1005, City of Holmes Beach – 941-708-5800, City of Anna Maria – 941-708-6130.

Do – Consider a wedding planner – visit recommended AMI Chamber member Event Planners

<http://www.annamariaislandchamber.org/AbouttheChamber/BusinessDirectory/WeddingsandSpecialEvents/EventPlannersandCoordinators.aspx>

- a.) To save time and money – Planners know vendors, can work payment arrangements, and know weddings inside and out. Wedding Planners and coordinators offer different packages to choose from.

- b.) If you have more than 50 guests.
- c.) If you are getting married in a location you are unfamiliar. It is hard enough planning. Having your wedding in a location that you are not familiar with can be harder. Get a professional that has the time to locate things like hotel accommodations for guests, transportation, vendor in the area, proper wedding venues, etc.

Do – Make sure that your desired location has handicapped access, if needed. Do they supply chairs and tables? Linens? Check on parking, lighting and visibility too.

Do- Make sure that if you are planning an outside wedding there is an alternate inside or under-cover location. We know that you would rather the weather be absolutely beautiful and we hope it is, but make sure there is a “just in case” back up. (It is good luck for it to rain on your wedding day – so if that happens, you can still have a perfect day.)

Do – Have all of your travel documents 6 months in advance.

Vendor Dos & Don'ts:

Do – Make sure every vendor has a time line! Make sure the minister is aware of the ceremony music and photograph time. The DJ or band will need to know when you cut the cake.

<http://www.annamariaislandchamber.org/AbouttheChamber/BusinessDirectory/WeddingandSpecialEvents/CakesandDesserts.aspx>

The photographer

<http://www.annamariaislandchamber.org/AbouttheChamber/BusinessDirectory/WeddingandSpecialEvents/PhotographyVideographyFraming.aspx> will want to know when the first dance will be and so on.

Do- Go over the type of pictures you will want with your photographer well ahead of time.

Do – Tip your wedding vendors accordingly. Ask Wedding Planner or research for tip list.

Don't – Forget to invite your officiant

<http://www.annamariaislandchamber.org/AbouttheChamber/BusinessDirectory/WeddingandSpecialEvents/Officiants.aspx> to your reception.

Do – Make a list for everything. Questions to ask certain vendors, things you do each week, each day, the kind of photos you want taken and with who, etc.

Do – Make sure you are comfortable with and like all of your vendors.

Do – Select and book your DJ

<http://www.annamariaislandchamber.org/AbouttheChamber/BusinessDirectory/WeddingandSpecialEvents/EntertainmentandDiscJockeys.aspx> 6-12 months in advance if possible.

Do – Make all payments in a timely manner.

Do – Be sure to ask about decorating restrictions at your reception facility.

Do – Make appointments with vendors so you are not disappointed if they are unavailable.

Do – Be sure your photographer knows which guests you really want photos of.

Personal Dos & Don'ts:

Don't – wear perfume or cologne for outside weddings! It is not fun to swat at bugs while trying to say your vows.

Do- Consider having a wedding and reception at one location, it is much easier for timing

Do – Plan your day for yourself, not for others.

Do – Seat older guests away from loud music.

Do – Pamper yourself! Treat your mom and girls to a spa day
<http://www.annamariaislandchamber.org/AbouttheChamber/BusinessDirectory/FunandLeisure/SpasandSalons.aspx> before the wedding.

Do – Consider some of your photos in black and white, they are timeless.

Do – Assign someone to collect and return all from your wedding day.

Do – Take an engagement photo to display near your guestbook.

Do – Start working on your tan early, you don't want to be red or peeling on your big day.

Do – Assign someone to retrieve your guest book, toasting glasses, pictures and cameras from the tables. You don't want to come back to find these things lost.

Do – Make important decisions well ahead of time regarding finances, housing, chores, etc.

Don't – have real rings on the ring bearer pillow, especially if getting married in the sand. If he is under 6 years old boys will be boys and that little pillow may not stay in his cute little hands. You don't want them to get lost if they fall off. Tying them on the pillow tight

is not a good idea either. It takes to long to try to get the rings off the pillow. Put fake ones on the pillow and relax, no one will notice.

Do – Set up a Wedding Website

<http://www.annamariaislandchamber.org/AbouttheChamber/BusinessDirectory/ProfessionalServices/ComputerInternetHardwareSoftware.aspx> if possible for guests to view wedding information.