

DAILY NEWS  
wedding guide

**COORDINATORS**

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

be dealing with the florist instead of reconnecting with friends and family who rarely ever can get together."

Unfortunately it's not as simple as saying "I do," and throwing a party for a few pals. You have to negotiate with vendors over price, quality and delivery of goods. You have to negotiate with two families over the guest

list. Divorced parents may need to call a truce, your mother may have to stop trying to live her wedding over through yours and your beloved may need to register for gifts at Home Depot. All of this and you still haven't chosen a band!

**Knowledgeable**

Wedding coordinators know all the vendors in your area; they have experience negotiating deals and can often save you money through their savvy.

"I save my clients money two ways. First I am better able to negotiate with vendors because that's what I do for a living, it's not a one time, emotional relationship for me," wedding coordinator Tosca Clark of Tosca Productions in Daly City said. "And since weddings are my business, I can help you avoid costly mistakes, like not accounting for feeding workers during the reception."

Clark also knows how to negotiate between family members. "Sometimes you need a neutral party between mothers, daughters and in-laws helping to make judgment calls, so that nobody gets their feelings hurt," Clark said.

You may not want your wedding coor-

**First things first**

**B**efore you hire a wedding coordinator, you may need to hire an engagement coordinator. In 1996 after planning an elaborate scheme for proposing to his fiancée, Paul Alden decided to become a proposal planner. "We were all dressed up in vintage 1920s attire for a local parade," Alden said. "Then, when we were standing around getting our picture taken, I proposed. My fiancée was so surprised she didn't answer. That's when a spectator demanded to know her answer!"

His company, located at [www.2propose.com](http://www.2propose.com), will help you

design an eye-popping proposal around a common interest or specific setting. Alden's company will provide assistance with performances, caterers, costume rental and photography for capturing the big moment.

Alden has arranged for private romantic engagements by the sea and heart-pounding dramatic engagements in front of friends and family waving balloons at a surprise party. "We try to make the engagement as memorable and important as the wedding," Alden said. "This one the guys can plan!"

dinator to taste the wedding cake samples for you, but she can make sure the three bakers you meet are the best ones for you.

Clark even brings two huge wicker baskets filled with wedding day essentials that may have been forgotten or may need to be repaired. "I've even had to supply a bow tie to one father-of-the-bride," Clark said.

Once you've decided to hire a wedding coordinator you should keep a few tips in mind:

Wedding coordinators charge by the hour or they take a percentage of the

total expenditures on the wedding- one last detail you'll have to negotiate yourself.

Interview three wedding coordinators before you pick one. This is a person you will be working closely with for months. You want to be sure you'll be able to work well together.

Get referrals from hotels, caterers, photographers and wedding sites when looking for a coordinator. These are all professionals who interact with coordinators on a daily basis.

Tosca Clark can be reached at (650) 992-1211.

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