# How to Create a Fabulous Flash Wedding

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Getting married is supposed be fun and exciting. It's the beginning of a new adventure with the person who makes your heart beat faster and your soul feel alive.

There are a lot of great memories waiting to be formed when it comes to getting married. But planning a wedding isn't so fun once the stress sets in. Have you noticed that all too often, a wedding ceases to be about two people who love each other and instead becomes about everyone else involved?

It seems that both sides of the family want to run the wedding. Getting married becomes a giant headache about a guest list and where to sit which person so that they're not near an ex or someone that they just don't get along with.

What would you say to a wedding that was pulled together and over in the blink of an eye – about 3-4 minutes max – and that left your guests amazed and awed? That's what flash weddings are all about.

#### What Is a Flash Wedding?

A fantastic, memorable and fun way to get married is to have a flash wedding. These ceremonies are blooming in popularity for some really good reasons. You might not be familiar with the term, but a flash wedding is just how it sounds.

It's a wedding done in a flash – where the guests don't know what's about to happen - and it's a whole lot of fun! You might also hear these referred to as pop up elopements.

There isn't a great deal of planning, not a lot of time involved with having the actual ceremony and the savings are phenomenal. Not only that, but you get to get married quickly, where you want and when you want. They eliminate the hassle - all of the "what you should do" and "what you shouldn't do" worries and instead put the focus back on the fact that two people fell in love and want to get married.

The cost of a flash wedding is so reasonable. You can have a flash wedding created for anywhere from \$500 to \$1,500 or less - depending on what you choose to go with.

Planning a wedding can be a major headache where, instead of being one of the most joyous times in a couple's life, it turns out to be one of the most stressful - and that's just not how you want to remember your wedding day.

At the forefront of most of the wedding hassles couples have to deal with is paying for the whole thing. The wedding niche is a huge industry with billions of dollars churned out in profit every year.

The industry plays on the "once in a lifetime" theme and urges couples to go all out and often, couples will go against their better judgment, get caught up in wedding fever and overspend, saddling them with debt right out of the gate in their marriage.

In fact, the biggest issue that a lot of couples have to deal with is how they can have a beautiful, memorable wedding without going broke or without causing their parents to have to take out a second mortgage on their home.

A recent article in CNN.com put the average expense spent on a wedding within the last year at \$30,000. With that kind of money, you can make a down payment on a home, buy a car, or take several vacations.

You don't have to start your joint life in debt. In other words, there are better ways to get married. Some people call flash weddings spontaneous, but the truth is, they're not spontaneous to those behindthe-scenes. They simply come together quickly with someone else taking care of all of the legwork while all you do is show up, say your vows and get busy enjoying your new life as a spouse.

While all of the behind-the-scenes stuff is taken care of for you with a flash wedding, you'll want to consider how to make your ceremony a fabulous event that you'll back on with fond memory.

And of course, if you want to plan it yourself and keep all of your friends and family in the dark until the big day, you can do that, too.

#### **Getting a Wedding Flash Planner**

A flash wedding planner is the person who takes care of the behind-thescenes tasks and should not be confused with a traditional wedding planner because they're as different as night and day.

This is the first move you want to make when you've made the decision to have a flash wedding - who to choose as your planner. A flash wedding planner, also sometimes called an elopement planner, is someone who's there to help you - but they don't take over the wedding.

They make sure that all of the paperwork is taken care of because you want your ceremony to be a legal one and you don't want to have to fret over the stress of legalities.

Make sure when you're choosing a planner that you check out what they offer as far as the paperwork process goes, because there are a few that will not take care of the paperwork for you.

You might also be able to combine a wedding planner and a flash mob organizer for hire to work together to create a great, memorable event. A flash wedding planner knows the ins and outs of the city and can also suggest some great ideas about where your ceremony could be held.

They know how to quickly get prepared for the ceremony and how to perform it even if a crowd of people happen to gather. They also know all of the areas where a flash wedding is not allowed and how to find out if they are or aren't (since there are restrictions in some places).

Sometimes cities have particular areas where they just don't allow ceremonies of any kind to be performed. These planners take the time to exchange either phone calls or emails with you to find out what you like about locations and what has a special meaning for you.

However, unlike a traditional wedding planner where you have months and months of seemingly unending meetings and decisions, you will often not even have a face-to-face meeting with your flash wedding planner until the day that you're set to have the ceremony done – unless you want to.

You can do all of the tasks you need to do to get ready for a flash wedding yourself, but most people do choose to go with a planner because it does take all of the pressure off of them. That way, they can just relax and focus their energy on getting married rather than having to deal with any stress.

### How to Choose a Location for Your Flash Wedding

Choosing a location is a different process when you opt to go with a flash wedding and there are some things you need to consider, but it's still far less stressful and costly than a traditional wedding.

If you were to go the traditional wedding ceremony route, you don't get to decide at the last minute where the ceremony is going to be held. That's because large groups of people have to be accommodated.

Choosing a popular venue means you're going to have to book it several months in advance and you don't get to choose your wedding day - the popular venue tells you what works for their schedule (what's available) and then you have to go from there.

So that doesn't leave much wiggle room for you to have your own wedding on a day that's meaningful for you and your spouse-to-be. You

have to try to narrow it down in advance to figure out how many people are coming because you have to plan for seating.

If you're going to have a dance floor, there has to be room for that. And let's not forget the fire laws. There can only be a certain capacity of people. If you're going to go over that, and your location can't house that many people, then you get to start all over looking for a new place.

Who needs that kind of location hassle? A flash wedding doesn't work that way. Finding a location for your flash wedding is done based on what you love - where you want to get married.

It's possible even if it seems like it's at an impossible wedding site. In fact, with a flash wedding, couples have been married in churches, in famous museums, on a nature trail, at a scenic overlook and even up in a tree!

The way that choosing a location works with a flash wedding is you want to decide what spot has some kind of significant meaning for you both. Some couples choose locations where they first met or had their first date or kiss - or where one of them proposed.

Other couples choose a location based on their life interests. Some are even more impromptu - such as waiting to see if a performer is going to be playing at a venue and then arranging to get married while that performer does his or her show in the background.

You get to pick a place that suits who you and your spouse-to-be are and have something that will give you lots of joy. The great thing about having a flash wedding company handle your wedding is that they look at all of the possible things that could go wrong and they plan for it.

If you want to have a wedding outside somewhere, which is the easiest and most common type of flash event, then what a flash wedding company does is make sure the wedding location has a backup plan in case the weather decides not to cooperate.

Flash weddings don't have to be in a public venue, either. Many couples have a flash wedding event in a private place – even their home! Guests

might think they're coming for a simple dinner party and be delighted to see a wedding come together right before their eyes!

## **Dressing for Your Flash Wedding**

Casual or elegant, in a traditional wedding, there are expectations social norms that you usually have to be aware of. All of that goes out the window with a flash wedding.

It's your wedding, and you get to wear whatever you want - even if it's not something that would normally be worn for a bride and groom. Most people tend to spend more money than they can really afford on clothing at a wedding.

The cost of all the formalwear for the groom and the groomsmen as well as the cost for the bride and the bridesmaids can really add up. Not to mention the cost to family members of the wedding party who choose to go out and buy an expensive outfit to wear.

People who have had flash weddings have worn casual attire as well as formal attire with the groom in a tux and the bride in a beautiful wedding gown. Some people have worn superhero costumes or dressed like a character from their favorite movie.

You can tailor what you wear to wherever you plan on holding your wedding ceremony. You can wear something vintage, something modern or you can wear shorts and flip flops if you want to!

What most people choose to do is to dress according to whatever they plan to do next once the wedding ceremony concludes. If you'll be taking the guests to a reception afterwards, then dress for that occasion.

### When You're Ready to Get Started

There are two ways that you can get the ball rolling with a flash wedding. You can reach out to a flash wedding planner or you can simply locate someone who can perform the ceremony and you handle all of the details. Whether you use a flash wedding planner or not, the details that need to be taken care of are all the same as a traditional wedding. First, you'll need to secure your marriage license, unless you're simply having a ceremony and you don't care if it's legal or not at that moment.

Next, if you use a planner, he or she will create a plan for your wedding. If you're doing it yourself, you'll need to do this part. You just write down the date and month that you want to get married and start planning each wedding element.

What a planner does is check those times to make sure that the place you want to get married at isn't going to be having some big pre-planned event. It wouldn't be fun having to battle your way through thousands of tourists to get to your wedding spot.

So you'd need to make sure that nothing major was scheduled to be going on where you want to get married. If you go with a planner, you'll need to be prepared to pay a deposit of some sort up front.

What that amount is will depend on the individual flash wedding business that you use. Doing it yourself of course means you skip this part. With a planner, after you book his or her services, they'll take some time to understand what you like and what's important to you as far as any essentials and what you might like in the ceremony.

The planner will help make a style of wedding that meets all of your hopes for the day. Once you have all this set, then all that's left is to simply arrive at the destination and the flash wedding planner will either perform the ceremony or will have someone there who is able to do it.

Some companies that offer this service do have extras for couples. You can have cocktails after the ceremony. They can also provide decorations including a bouquet of flowers for the bride.

One thing you want to be forewarned about in advance is that large groups of family and friends do not mix well with a flash wedding. That's because while it might be okay for a couple to have an unscheduled ceremony in an unusual place, that place will more than likely not appreciate having a large crowd of people who suddenly show up to deal with and you could be asked to leave the premises.

Large groups showing up suddenly creates a flash mob effect and can tie up space for the length of time it takes the ceremony to be done with. Many places, while they are accepting of couples marrying there, will not be so easy on those who bring a lot of people.

So when you're planning your flash wedding, keep in mind that it really should just be yourself, your spouse-to-be and the person officiating the ceremony along with an intimate group of friends and family members to help you celebrate.

The bigger the venue, the more people you can invite. Just try not to overwhelm the location with a crowd too extensive to meet the demands of your party. Most people (even bystanders who don't know you) will enjoy seeing this unfold and won't complain about it.

One of the things that most couples always want to know about with a flash wedding is what about the photography? This is a big deal for traditional weddings as well as for a flash wedding because everyone wants to commemorate that special day.

For this, you want to make sure that you look for a flash wedding company that also provides photography services. These services will cover meaningful photographs of the bride and groom.

Usually this is limited to just the people getting married and family and friend photographs are not taken by the service. This part of the service can take anywhere from forty-five minutes to an hour.

These photographs can be taken at the venue in most cases as well as outside in other locations. You can also hire a separate photographer and videographers to capture the day for you. If you have music and dancing, you'll also need a DJ and sound system. Many flash mob coordinators have someone you can hire for this purpose (or someone on staff), so just ask

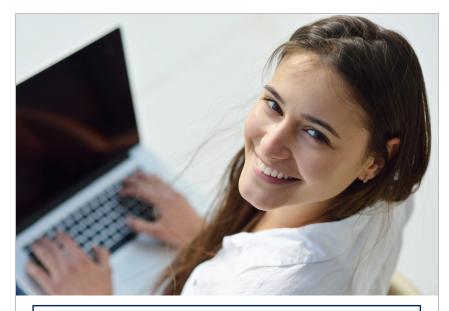
Flash wedding planners need time to pull together the event. If you have dancers involved, for instance, then they need to hire them, choreograph the routine, and practice.

Don't wait until the very last minute to hire someone to plan your flash wedding. Rush events still need about three weeks and generally, it takes around twelve weeks to plan adequately. Some people plan theirs for up to a year.

There are some local flash mob coordinators you can hire, and also country-wide coordinators who have planners based in all major cities in America. Just pick one with a good reputation for pulling these off.

Let them get you any pertinent permits so that if someone mistakenly thinks the event shouldn't be taking place, your planner can quell any fears and provide them with the legal paperwork needed for you to continue.

Not only can a flash wedding a cute, trendy way to get married, but it offers you a way to save money, yet still have a beautiful ceremony. And it's stress-free for you!



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