ULTIMATE VALUE ENTERTAINMENT

10 Questions to Ask Before Booking Your Wedding DJ

The DJ controls the energy of your entire reception — more than any other vendor. These ten questions separate the pros from the guys with a laptop and a hope. Bring this list to every DJ interview.

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QUESTION 1

Are you a full-time DJ, or is this a side gig?

Why it matters: A DJ who works weddings every weekend has handled power outages, drunk uncles, and timeline disasters. Experience is the product.

What a good answer sounds like: Good answer: "I DJ weddings every weekend — this is what I do." Vague answers about "a few events a year" are a yellow flag.

QUESTION 2

What exactly is included — and what costs extra?

Why it matters: The classic pricing trap: a low headline price, then charges for setup, travel, microphones, lighting, and "overtime" appear on the contract.

What a good answer sounds like: Good answer: one flat price with a written list of everything included. If they can't list it, they can add to it later.

QUESTION 3

Do you MC, or just play music?

Why it matters: Someone has to run the timeline — introductions, first dance, toasts, bouquet toss. If your DJ won't MC, you're hiring and coordinating a second person.

What a good answer sounds like: Good answer: "I MC every wedding and keep the night moving." A DJ who "just plays music" leaves you with an unmanaged reception.

QUESTION 4

What happens if your equipment fails?

Why it matters: Speakers die. Laptops freeze. Cables fail. At 8pm on your wedding day, "I'll figure it out" is not a plan.

What a good answer sounds like: Good answer: "I bring backup gear to every event — backup laptop, mixer, extra cables and mics." No backup plan, no booking.

QUESTION 5

What happens if YOU get sick?

Why it matters: A one-person operation with no backup DJ is one flu away from ruining your wedding. Ask what the contingency is — in writing.

What a good answer sounds like: Good answer: "We have multiple DJs on staff — another professional covers your date." Solo operators should at least name their backup.

QUESTION 6

Can we give you must-play and do-not-play lists?

Why it matters: It's your wedding. A DJ who won't take your input — or insists "trust me, I know what works" — is DJing for themselves, not for you.

What a good answer sounds like: Good answer: "Absolutely — custom playlists around your taste, must-plays, do-not-plays, and live requests all night."

QUESTION 7

How do you handle song requests from guests?

Why it matters: Guest requests can make or break a dance floor. You want a DJ who reads the room — honoring the vibe, not playing every random shout-out.

What a good answer sounds like: Good answer: "I take requests all night and fit them to the energy — always checked against your do-not-play list."

QUESTION 8

Will you coordinate with my venue and other vendors?

Why it matters: Load-in access, power outlets, sound restrictions, timeline coordination with your planner and photographer — logistics make or break the night.

What a good answer sounds like: Good answer: "I confirm logistics with your venue ahead of time and coordinate the timeline day-of." A DJ who shows up cold is gambling with your reception.

QUESTION 9

Can I see reviews or talk to a past client?

Why it matters: Anyone can build a pretty website. Reviews from real couples — and a willingness to connect you with one — are the proof.

What a good answer sounds like: Good answer: they point you to Google reviews without hesitation. Dodging this is the biggest red flag on this list.

QUESTION 10

What's your overtime rate — in writing?

Why it matters: The party's peaking at 10:55 and your contract ends at 11. Some DJs charge $300+ for one extra hour, decided on the spot, when you have zero leverage.

What a good answer sounds like: Good answer: a fixed, reasonable overtime rate stated in the contract before you sign — not "we'll figure it out that night."

One DJ That Answers All Ten

Ultimate Value Entertainment — Chicago's straightforward DJ service.
One flat price, everything in writing, backup DJs on staff,
and playlists built around your taste.

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