

HOW TO DEAL WITH AN OVERBEARING MOTHER-IN-LAW

- ★ **Say yes, mean no.**
Agree with everything your future mother-in-law says when you are together, but do what you wish when she is gone. Just nod at her sweetly and pat her on the shoulder when she says or does something inappropriate. If she later asks about decisions, say you and your future spouse discussed it further and you hope she understands.
- ★ **Hire/designate a fake professional.**
Get a friend or an actor to impersonate a wedding planner, and have your mother-in-law share her ideas with him. When her ideas aren't executed, blame the fake planner.
- ★ **Blame your bladder.**
Leave the room when her difficult nature flares. Apologize, appear mildly embarrassed, and say you need to use the bathroom. Drink plenty of water and other fluids when in her presence so your exits appear justified.
- ★ **Send her on useless missions.**
Instruct her to meet with vendors you have no intention of using. Match her up with notoriously difficult

florists, bandleaders, caterers, and other wedding suppliers.

Be Aware

Mothers-in-law have a tendency to pull something at the last minute, just when you thought you had safely made it to the day of the wedding. Be on guard for her claims of illness—dizziness, nausea, diarrhea—that shift the focus of attention to her. Be especially prepared for the most common stunt, inappropriate wedding attire that:

- shows too much cleavage
- is more appropriate for a funeral
- steals the show (bright red)
- flaunts her own wedding dress (especially if she is recently divorced)

To avoid the surprise dress, ask well before the wedding to see what she will be wearing.