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DID

COVID-19
POSTPONE
YOUR
WEDDING?

**A free guide to figure out
what to do next**

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Your Venue has called and postponed your wedding due to the COVID-19. What do you do now?

Firstly don't panic. I am sure that most people have had guests not able to travel because of the virus and the elderly deciding it's best to stay at home to lessen risk. So at least it isn't out of the blue entirely.

Pick another date - I would find a date with your venue straight away -don't wait. The early bird gets the worm so to speak. The virus seems to have a short life span once it's been and gone, there are vaccines being trialed so the likely hood of it extending into the next 6 mths is low. So perhaps aim for a date in 6 mths.

Contact your Celebrant first. Find out if they have the date available and if not what would plan moving forward be, usually a transfer of the NOIM to a celebrant that is available is the course of action. Your celebrant should be able to do this without issue.

As a part of the code of conduct we as celebrants must make ourselves proficient for this type of event and have the necessary training and tools to complete transfers. It is not acceptable for a celebrant to deny or delay this and you can make a complaint should that occur.

If you have booked with me you will have received your ceremony as well and can use this to keep things as you wanted them. I keep all documents scanned for emergencies so you only need to ask and I can send everything you need.

I will also assist you in finding a substitute

You will need to show the substitute celebrant your documents

These are:

Proof of birth (passport or birth certificate)

Photo ID (eg passport, driver license, proof of age card)

Divorce or death certificate of former spouse if relevant

Change of name certificate if relevant)

They will prepare new certificates which means you will need to resign the Declaration of No Legal Impediment if you have already signed it.

The new celebrant will solemnize your marriage and register it.

What's next?

Contact your caterer and any other suppliers you have paid deposits too first.

Make the new date with them and if they cannot fulfill that date make arrangements with them regarding the deposit and other suppliers they may recommend. A couple of suggestions,

1. Ask for a recommendation.
2. If they do not refund deposits in this situation, ask if the cake/ decorations/flowers can be picked up on a day they are available and if necessary delivered back.
3. Ask if they have anyone they use for set-ups that you can contact. This way no one loses any money or work.

For any vendors that are not able to cater for your event and do not give a refund of the deposit. you can contact the ACCC and Fair trading to find out your rights and if there was no contract signed to that effect you can request in writing the money be returned to you. Most businesses will only be able to keep deposits and nothing more.

Make sure EVERYONE has been contacted and send out an email/text requesting a response so you know they have received the new date.

Guests - If guests have to change annual leave plans and holiday plans don't be concerned at the end of the day it is about you and your fiance, you cannot finance everyone else's wedding experience and you shouldn't. Most travel agents will have travel insurance and can postpone without issue.

Honeymoon - make sure you contact anyone you have booked for the honeymoon this includes hotel massages and any activities booked.

Create a checklist so you can keep track of everything and everyone and tick off as you go. Enlist your Maid of Honor and best man to assist you if you can to get through everything without stress.

What happens if we can't find a new date?

Don't panic.

1. Ask the venue if they have an alternative in mind, can they recommend someone else.
2. Think about other options, restaurants, parks, cafes, friends homes.
3. ELOPING - there are couples who have basically asked their bridal party to attend a small gathering at a home and have a legal ceremony and then are putting the reception on a back burner.

This means they don't have to change their celebrant and can use the credit with their suppliers at a later date. It also means it could be used at any time for any reason such as an upcoming birthday or perhaps - like one of my own couples - their first year anniversary.

They have chosen to book 1 year in advance for all their suppliers and still have a ceremony on the original date. This meant all their overseas family could postpone travel plans for exactly one year and no one lost any money at all.

When we are faced with adversity it is important to remember to keep people around you that strengthen you and help you. make lists, check things off, get confirmations and try not to overwhelm yourself.

It is also a good option that if you find yourself being overwhelmed and panicked to hire a coordinator to assist you. One of the services they offer is rescheduling. Find one that suits you and your budget and let them do it all for you.

If you have had to cancel your wedding - don't worry it will happen. You are being the best you can be at the time faced with something you cannot control.
stay safe



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*Not your
average
celebrant*

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