

The Ultimate Wedding DJ Vetting Checklist: Essential Questions to Ask Before Booking

Don't just hire a DJ; hire a partner for your big day. Ask these questions during your consultation:

Phase 1: The "Must-Haves" (Ask Every DJ)

- ☐ Proof of Insurance: Do you have a \$1M–\$2M General Liability policy (COI)? (Many Indiana venues require this to step foot on-site.)
- ☐ Backup Plan: What happens if your primary speaker blows or you get sick on the wedding morning?
- ☐ The Contract: Is there a legally binding contract that protects my deposit and defines the services?
- ☐ Equipment Quality: Is this "pro-grade" gear (Bose, LD, Alpha Theta, Sennheiser) or "home theater" gear?
- ☐ Have you worked at our venue before? (Familiarity with acoustics and layout is a huge plus).
- ☐ Can you send a picture of what your set up/s look like? (important to ask)

Phase 2: Vetting By Price Tier

If you are Paying	Ask these "Red Flag" questions
\$1,000.00 - 1,500.00	"Do you use a professional mixing controller, or are you just using a Spotify/YouTube playlist on a computer or are you using an Ipad?"
\$1,500.00 - 2,500.00	"How many weddings have you personally DJ'd? Will you personally be my DJ? Can you handle the timeline and coordinate with my photographer?"
\$2,500.00 - 3,500.00+	"Describe your MC style. How do you 'read the room' to pivot the music if the dance floor starts to thin out?"

Phase 3: Questions about The Vibe

- ☐ How do you handle song requests from guests? (We recommend a "DJ can veto" policy—we only play them if they fit your vibe!)
- ☐ Can we submit a "Must Play" and a "Do Not Play" list?
- ☐ Do you use streaming services to play music? (We do not recommend this as this requires a dedicated internet connection)
- ☐ How do you play music?
- ☐ Do you mix? Describe that.
- ☐ Let songs play out till the end?
- ☐ Do you talk on the mic between each and every song?
- ☐ Do you make announcements?
- ☐ Intelligent Lighting: Is your lighting static (one color), or does it move and change with the energy of the music?
- ☐ Music Mastery: Do you perform live "mashups" and clean transitions, or is there a 3-second silence between every song?
- ☐ Music Flexibility: Are you a clean radio edit only DJ or would you play explicit versions of songs if that is what we want?
- ☐ Modern Tech: Do you offer "special moments" like Cold Sparks, Dancing on a Cloud, Uplighting, Monograms, 3D mapping, Photo Booths, or Video Walls?