



# *Newport Limousine Service LLC*

SERVING NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

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## ***Wedding Transportation Planning***

Congratulations on your engagement! In the midst of wedding planning, you must be wondering how to find reliable professionals to handle the various aspects of one of the most important days in your life. Wedding transportation is often overlooked until a few months before the wedding, but it actually can be the most crucial part of your day. The day depends on you and your loved ones and friends safely getting to your destination on time. Specialty vehicles such as Rolls Royces and larger Escalades, Excursions, Navigators, often book up over a year ahead of time.

You want your vehicles to arrive on time, and for them to be in immaculate condition, with champagne in sparkling clean glasses. You always want a pleasant and professional chauffeur, someone you are comfortable with to get you to the occasion safely and on time, and one that you want to play an important part of your wedding day. The chauffeurs should always be meticulous in their attire. If there is a problem in any of these areas, the experience can certainly put a damper on your wedding day, which is what we hope to avoid. We want you to have the most perfect day possible.

Wedding transportation can encompass a horse-drawn carriage, antique Rolls Royces or Bentleys, classic stretch limousines in black or white, usually available in 6, 8, 10, or 14-passenger sizes. It can involve several vehicles at different locations. Limo buses, Navigators, Escalades, and Hummers are usually available in 12, 18, 26, and 30-passenger sizes. Some of our antique vehicles also have a special and famous history. For example, the John Wayne limo was actually owned by the Duke for 15 years and has appeared in Billy Joel's music video, "Uptown Girls." Our Silver Dawn Rolls has been featured in the movie "True Lies," which was partially filmed in Newport, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Another consideration is whether or not you wish to provide transportation for your wedding guests. This may include help with airport transportation, or transportation to the wedding and reception. It is recommended that you have vehicles available to take wedding guests home, as necessary. Often, a need will come up when a guest has to leave the reception early or elderly guests prefer not to linger. It is always a courtesy and gives you some peace of mind to have a vehicle waiting should this need occur. This vehicle can be a sedan, limousine, SUV, or limo coach, depending on what you choose. Wedding guests will appreciate that, and it is a thoughtful gesture to think about their utmost safety after all the celebrating at the wedding reception. Also, are you planning limousine service for your transportation your hotel or to the airport after your wedding? Perhaps you are looking for one company to coordinate all these details for you? After all it is your wedding day and all the planning can be overwhelming.

Many of the current wedding planning guides suggest that you plan your wedding transportation 3 to 6 months in advance. But, we think that if you are planning to use any specialty vehicles or the horse-drawn carriage, that you try to book at least a year in advance. Many brides think of the wedding carriage at the last minute, only to be disappointed to learn that it is already booked. In Newport, we need 30 days alone just to apply for the carriage permit because of the city laws. If your wedding is during a busy season and on a Saturday, advance planning is even more critical. Trolley companies are also often booked up a year in advance. When people shop for limousines, they are often only asking for a one-way ride to the church, or only an hour minimum time frame. They feel that it is wasting money to have the vehicle wait at the reception. Limousine services do not operate like taxi services and do not usually do drop off and pickup services. From the owner's perspective, it ties up the vehicle for the whole evening and they lose other opportunities for business. The vehicle has to be cleaned and washed and in perfect condition in between wedding parties, which obviously is not practical. It can be compared to renting out a hotel room for a night.

It is critical to go with a reputable company, one that is not going out of business, and one that will honor your deposit. We often hear the sad story of a bride giving a deposit to a company that has gone out of business, and she has lost her deposit, and is searching at the last minute to find a replacement. There are still limousine companies who are not properly registered or insured. It is usually a mistake to base your decisions just on the lowest price in your transportation planning. You don't want to save \$100 and have your vehicle not show up for your wedding. Transportation liability and vehicle insurance costs are soaring along with fuel costs, and many companies have a difficult time just staying in business in today's economy.

It is better to shop for limousine transportation with reputable companies. If you need to cut costs, we suggest cutting the costs of flowers, cake, or photographs. These are things that usually do not adversely affect your wedding day with the irreparable impact of a negative limousine experience. It seems that we all have heard of the wedding limousine "horror stories." Vehicles not showing up on time or not showing up at all; mechanical failure due to inattentive owners; air-conditioning failure; dirty glassware and carpeting; drivers with "no teeth and unkempt appearance;" drivers not clean and well-dressed, drunk drivers, the wrong vehicle; drivers getting lost, and ....well, you get the picture. Also realize that transportation involves your safety and that of your future spouse, friends, families, and loved ones. Most of us would not choose to save a few dollars by putting their lives at risk. Limousine companies should be as professional as all of the other vendors that you choose for your wedding.

Good communication is key in planning wedding transportation. There are some good companies out there can provide excellent service on your wedding day, but may not be able to communicate with you about the details. This can add to the stress of planning, as you are left wondering if your information was received, or if the limousine will show up on time. Many local companies are run by one owner who is unable to answer the phone, or may be in his car on a mobile phone in taking your information. You want to be able to communicate well with your chosen limousine company, in case of any last minute change in your plans. You always should insist on a written contract spelling out all the details, including number of hours, color and size of the vehicles, pick up times, exact location, and pricing. Ideal communication should include regular mail, e-mail, fax, telephones, and mobile phones.

At Newport Limousine Service, LLC, we try to personalize your service and take some of the guesswork out of choosing the best possible limousine vendors for your wedding. We do all of your transportation wedding planning. Often, just one company cannot meet all your transportation needs, and you end up contracting with multiple limousine companies, and have many different contracts. We screen our vendors, requiring all must be fully insured and licensed with the necessary airport permits, as our primary concern is your safety. Then we select the companies with the best vehicles and most reliable service. Vehicles must be late models in excellent condition, and the company must have a reputation of good vehicle maintenance. The drivers must be pleasant and professional, dressed in a dark suit or tux, as the occasion requires. This holds true for our vehicles as well as our horse drawn carriage, which is a new reproduction of a Victorian era 'vis-a-vis', pulled by quiet and well-trained Belgian draft horses. The driver is dressed as a 19th century coachman, attired in the manner of the carriage drivers of Newport's Gilded Age.

Whenever practical, we arrive with the limousines to check out the details for you. Your total experience is very important to us. We can personalize it as much as possible, selecting special wines/champagnes to be in the car, possibly even the music. Upon request, we will provide digital photos of those first moments in the carriage or the vehicle. The photos are complimentary, and provided to the bride via e-mail after the wedding.

We also recommend signed contracts and receipts for all your deposits. We e-mail you electronic receipts for credit card transactions, signed copies of the contracts, and all the information necessary for you to know exactly what you are getting on your wedding day. We are available to answer your questions or if you need to make changes in times and locations. Our contracts include the vehicle size, color, times, locations, the hours, the overtime rate, etc. We can communicate via e-mail or phone right up to your wedding day. When the wedding approaches, we do like cell phone numbers in case of any unexpected surprises, like the New England weather. Please view our web site at [www.newportlimo.net](http://www.newportlimo.net) to request information about any of the vehicles and options available. We look forward to doing business with you as a critical part of your wedding planning team.

Best wishes for your wedding planning journey!  
Judith Berry, Pres. and CEO Newport Limousine Service, LLC