

HOW TO SURVIVE THE PROM

IF A DATE CANCELS

If your teen's date cancels, put as many of the following plans into simultaneous action as possible to find a replacement date.

- ★ **Cruise local hotels and event venues.**
Phone to determine what other formal events are taking place that night, then visit the locales to find a suitable date. Weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, and charity balls are good events to troll. Avoid 50th anniversary parties.
- ★ **Start a phone chain with family and friends.**
Cousins, family friends, and neighbors are the most likely candidates, as are foreign exchange students and visitors from out of town.
- ★ **Check formalwear stores.**
An employee in a formalwear store may already be dressed and ready to go.
- ★ **Order pizzas from several different pizza establishments.**
Select the most attractive delivery person. Tip well.



Hire an escort.

Find as reputable an entertainment service or modeling agency as possible. Do not tip well.

IF YOU HAVE TO DRIVE

1

Disguise yourself.

Wear a wig, chauffeur's cap, paste-on mustache, thick glasses, fake nose, or other identity-changing device. Protect your identity, not only for your teen's sake, but also for your own.

2

Alter the appearance of your car.

Make your car look more like a car service vehicle. Create a sign that reads "Professional Limo Service" and place it in the window. Place a small cooler with sodas and snacks in the back seat. Tape small signs on the back of the driver's and passenger's seats that say, "Do not talk to driver," and "Tipping permitted." If possible, borrow a friend's or family member's luxury sedan.

3

Speak in a cultivated, sophisticated accent.

Address your child and the date formally as "Sir" or "Miss."

4

Do not talk to your passengers.

Do not join the conversational flow. Even if there is awkward silence in the back seat, do not fill the gap with musings of your own prom and teenage exploits.

5 Resist the urge to act parentally.

Even if you see behavior you know to be inappropriate, restrain yourself from interjecting unless the law is being broken or lives are being threatened. You are the driver, not the parent. Discuss only pick-up times and wait times.

HOW TO AVOID A CORSAGE WOUND

Pin the corsage on your daughter's dress to save her date from embarrassment and her from injury. If it is your son going to the prom, instruct him on how to proceed.

1 Remove the corsage from its box.

2 Watch out for the long pin.

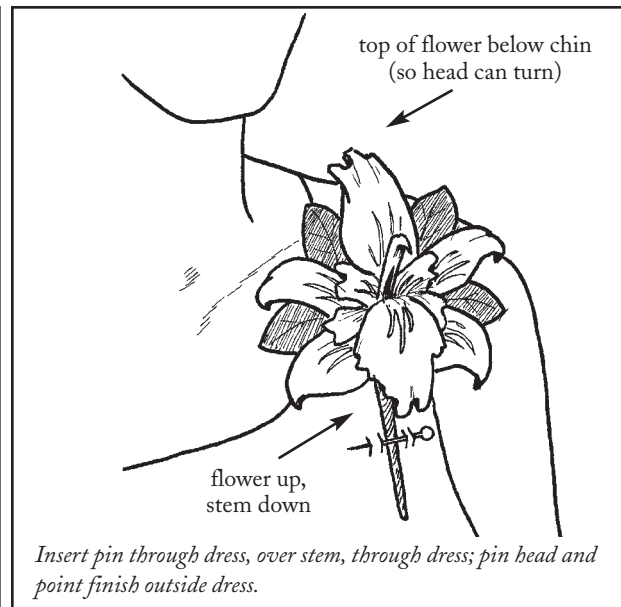
There will be at least one pin piercing the flower or stem.

3 Remove the pin(s) from the corsage.

4 Position the corsage so that the flowers point up.

5 Determine the best location for the corsage.

The ideal location for the corsage depends upon what the woman is wearing: Usually, it should be pinned on the dress near the collarbone, so that she can turn her head slightly to smell the flowers. Do not pin the corsage so high that her chin hits the flowers when she moves her head. If she is wearing a strapless dress, pin the corsage at her waist or on her evening bag.



6 Pin the corsage to the fabric.

Gently pull the fabric away from her body, or slide your fingers, palm out, between the dress and her skin. Insert the pin horizontally (toward her skin), then back through fabric (away from her skin) and over the corsage stem to hold it in place. Complete the pinning by running the pin once more through the fabric (toward her skin) and back out again (away from her skin). You will have made four holes in her dress.

Be Aware

Remember to move the tip of the pin to the outside of her dress for its final resting place.