**Men’s Guide to Professional Dress**

“A professional appearance enhances your overall package. Like gift wrapping, the more ‘put together’ your appearance, the more you will leave a positive impression.” – Jacqueline Whitmore, Founder of The Protocol School of Palm Beach

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**BASICS**

- Dressing conservatively will give the impression of maturity and professionalism
- Arrive neat and well groomed
- Ensure that your clothing is clean and pressed
- Wear a suit rather than coordinating separates

**COMPONENTS**

**YOUR SUIT:**

- Typically Men’s clothing stores employ clothing professionals who can advise you on size and style. Generally, tailoring is also provided for a minimal cost.
- A two-pieceed single-breasted suit should be dark – gray and navy are the most advisable color choices but brown and black are also acceptable.
- Solids, subtle weaves or pinstripes are acceptable. Select a lightweight breathable fabric that doesn’t wrinkle and can be worn in multiple climates.
- Under your jacket, wear a long-sleeved button-down dress shirt in a white, neutral or pale color.

**TIES:**

- Ties are a must – be sure your tie is conservative and not too flamboyant.
- Select a silk or silk-blend tie that coordinate with your suit and shirt – no bow ties!
- Ties with background colors of gray, burgundy, blue and green are safe choices.
- Whether to use a half-Windsor or full-Windsor knot is depended on your face shape. Ask your clothing professional for advice.

**FOOTWEAR, BELTS AND ACCESSORIES:**

- Select a pair of black or navy dress socks that cover the entirety of your calf. Mid-calf socks may reveal some of your leg when you sit, and may not stay up.
- Choose a pair of black, cordovan or mahogany leather shoes, either slip-ons or lace-up dress shoes that compliment your suit.
- The belt should be leather and always match your shoes.

**HAIR:**

- Your hair should be clean, professionally styled, and kept out of your face.
- A clean-shaven face is ideal, however if you have facial hair make sure it is well-established and well-groomed.
- Avoid unusual facial hairstyles, such as sideburns, goatees, and soul patches.

**JEWELRY & FRAGRANCES:**

- Jewelry should be simple – a watch and a ring are the only pieces of jewelry you should wear to an interview.
- If you choose to wear a watch, it should be professional and modest, with a band made of leather, silver, or gold. Remove any visible piercings and cover tattoos.
- Only wear cologne that is very light and that will not distract the interviewer or cause a reaction to those that might be allergic.