



PLANNING YOUR *Orange County*  
WEDDING

Wedding Calendar

Wedding Budget

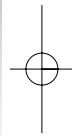
Bride's Checklist

Groom's Checklist

Wedding Day Checklist

Contacts & Notes

Planning For Life After the Wedding





### 12+ MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING DAY

- Select the date for your wedding (and alternate dates)
- Consult with your fiancé and all parents to determine the financial support available to you, and set a budget for the wedding (including all activities related to your wedding)
- Determine, with your fiancé, the type of wedding you will have (formal or informal, large or small)
- Determine, with your fiancé, the number of guests you wish to invite
- Select the ceremony location and reserve it
- Select an officiant for your ceremony
- Select the reception location and reserve it
- Determine your need for Bridal Consultant services and hire one to help you (with entire planning process; with certain aspects; or with wedding day only)

### 10-12 MONTHS BEFORE

- Arrange for families to meet (if they have not already met)
- Begin shopping for gown and accessories (veil, gloves, lingerie, shoes)
- Order gown
- Determine the guest lists (compiled from both the bride's and groom's families)
- Choose and notify wedding party attendants (bridesmaids, groomsmen, and others)
- Select and order attendants wedding attire (bridesmaid gowns and accessories)

### 8-10 MONTHS BEFORE:

Select and reserve the following:

- Caterer
- Decorator
- Florist
- Musicians, dj, and entertainment
- Photographer
- Videographer
- Party rental equipment (tents, tables, chairs, décor)
- Determine wedding cake design; select and reserve a baker or bakery
- Select music for the wedding ceremony
- Select music/entertainment for the reception
- Plan the details of the reception
- Begin shopping for wedding rings
- Discuss honeymoon plans with fiancé and begin arrangements

### 6-8 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Order invitations, announcements, personal stationery, and thank-you notes
- Select bridal registry items and register at 1-3 stores
- Reserve transportation for the bridal party (limousines, carriages, other)
- Reserve accommodations for out-of-town guests
- Reserve transportation for out-of-town guests to travel to/from the ceremony and reception
- Finalize honeymoon plans with fiancé (finalize arrangements, check passports/visas, notify employers)
- Begin looking for a new place to live

### 4-6 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Select and order men's formalwear
- Reserve accommodations for wedding night (if different from honeymoon plan)
- Select stylist for bridal party hair and make-up
- Meet with florist to plan details
- Meet with photographer for engagement portrait
- Select and order wedding guest favors
- Select and hire calligrapher, if needed



- Begin dance lessons with fiancé
- Begin shopping for bridal trousseau
- Begin shopping for home furnishings

#### 2-4 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Announce engagement in local newspapers
- Confirm delivery dates for all gowns
- Meet with caterer to discuss menu
- Meet with officiant to discuss ceremony
- Select appropriate readings and vows for ceremony
- Schedule ceremony rehearsal and notify participants
- Arrange rehearsal dinner and notify participants
- Select bridesmaid and groomsmen gifts
- Address wedding invitations

#### 1-2 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Schedule final gown fitting for bride
- Remind bridesmaids to schedule final fittings
- Schedule blood test (if required)
- Schedule a date with fiancé to pick up marriage license
- Mail invitations
- Prepare printed program for wedding (if applicable)
- Prepare placecards for reception (if applicable)
- Plan pre-wedding party for bride and bridesmaids
- Confirm ceremony and reception details with Bridal Consultant
- Assign wedding day tasks to friends (guest book and table attendants, assistance with corsages and boutonnieres, and cake cutting)

- Confirm request lists with photographer, musicians/dj, and videographer
- Purchase guest book, pen, toasting glasses, unity candle, cake knife and server, and flower girl/ring bearer accessories
- Pick up wedding rings and check engraving
- Begin arrangements for changing bride's name on documents (if applicable)
- Begin thank you notes for gifts received

#### 2 WEEKS BEFORE:

- Address announcements to be mailed on wedding day (if applicable)
- Arrange for cleaning and preservation of wedding gown after wedding
- Arrange for bridal bouquet preservation after wedding
- Remind fiancé to confirm honeymoon arrangements
- Confirm arrangements for attire and accessories of all wedding party members
- Assist fiancé with writing toasts for rehearsal dinner and wedding reception
- Confirm final guest count to caterer and reception facility
- Notify post office of change of address (if applicable)
- Schedule pre-wedding-day manicure/pedicure, massage and spa treatments

#### 1 WEEK BEFORE:

- Make final contact with baker, caterer, florist, musicians/dj, photographer, and videographer
- Make final preparations for honeymoon (pack suitcases, prepare camera, purchase traveler's checks)
- Confirm wedding-day assignments with Bridal Consultant, family and friends
- Confirm time/location for rehearsal, rehearsal dinner and wedding with wedding party participants
- Confirm pick-up times/locations with transportation providers
- Prepare gifts for bridal party, to be presented at rehearsal dinner



Establishing a wedding budget is the first, and most important, step of the planning process.

Survey the expense categories on the following pages. Then, prioritize the categories by determining which elements of your wedding celebration are most important to you (example: We want to have more funds for catering, so we will cut back on...).

Determine the financial resources available to you and your fiancé from your own funds and from family. Allocate ample budget for the important items.

#### TIP

Your wedding reception will probably be the most costly part of your plan. Be realistic. Don't expect to get great food and great service for "take-out" prices. If you have to make cuts, reduce the size of your guest list, not the quality of your party.

Don't be surprised or concerned if your budget priorities and allocations shift during the early stages of the research and budgeting process. Just be sure to stay within total-budget bounds (and to use a pencil for the first round!).

#### TIP

You may want to hire a Bridal Consultant to help you with this. A Consultant's knowledge of the local wedding industry can help you to save time and money!

The chart on page 8 will help you to form your budget and track your expenses.

#### WHO HAS FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEDDING COSTS?

It is no longer expected that wedding costs will be assigned according to tradition. The bride and groom should discuss their plan and budget for the wedding with their families to determine whether to follow a traditional division of financial responsibility for the wedding costs.

If circumstances don't allow the families to follow tradition, the proper rationale in deciding who pays for what portion is basic: whoever is most willing and most able to pay for a wedding expense assumes responsibility for that expense.

Traditional division of financial responsibility for wedding costs:

#### GROOM

- Bride's engagement and wedding rings
- Bride's bouquet and going-away corsage
- Wedding gift for bride
- Honeymoon
- Boutonnieres for men in wedding party
- Mothers' corsages
- Gifts for best man, groomsman, and ushers
- Groomsmen's apparel (optional)
- Accommodations for out-of-town members of groom's party (optional)
- Marriage license
- Fee for officiant
- Gift for parents (optional)

#### GROOM'S FAMILY

- Engagement party (optional; following party by bride's parents)
- Groom's personal stationery and thank-you notes
- Groom's wedding apparel
- Groom's parents' wedding apparel
- Rehearsal dinner
- Wedding gift for newlyweds
- Shipment of wedding gifts to couple's new home
- Welcome party for out-of-town guests (optional)

#### GROOM'S PARTY MEMBERS

- Bachelor party
- Wedding apparel and shoes
- Accommodations for self

#### BRIDE

- Personal stationery
- Groom's wedding ring
- Wedding gift for groom
- Gifts for bridal party
- Gowns for bridal party (optional)
- Accommodations for out-of-town members of bridal party (optional)
- Luncheon for bridal party
- Gift for parents (optional)

#### BRIDE'S FAMILY

- Engagement party
- Wedding gift for newlyweds
- Wedding reception costs
- Wedding ceremony facility costs, including decorations
- Bride's wedding apparel and trousseau
- Bride's parents' wedding apparel
- Invitations, announcements, thank-you notes, postage
- Wedding ceremony programs
- Engagement and wedding photographs
- Videographer
- Musicians/vocalists
- Bridal party bouquets and flowers for flower girl
- Flowers for ceremony and reception
- Transportation for bridal party to ceremony and reception
- Security and insurance for gifts
- Welcome party for out-of-town guests (optional)
- Bridal Party Members
- Bridal shower for bride
- Wedding apparel and shoes
- Accommodations for self



|   | BUDGET | ACTUAL | PAID FOR BY |
|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>RECEPTION</b>       |        |        |             |
| Catering/food servers/tax/gratuity              | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Facility rental                                 | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Rental equipment/decorations                    | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Beverages/bar/corkage fee                       | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Cake/cake cutting fee                           | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Other   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>CEREMONY</b>        |        |        |             |
| Facility rental                                 | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Officiant fee                                   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Marriage license                                | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Rental equipment/ decorations                   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Other   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>APPAREL - BRIDE</b> |        |        |             |
| Bridal gown                                     | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Headpiece/veil                                  | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Shoes   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Lingerie/Hosiery                                | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Jewelry   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Alterations                                     | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Other   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>APPAREL - GROOM</b> |        |        |             |
| Groom's formalwear                              | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Accessories (shoes, cufflinks, etc.)            | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Other   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>PHOTOGRAPHER</b>    |        |        |             |
| Wedding package fee                             | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Prints/album                                    | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Engagement portrait/prints                      | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Wedding portrait/prints                         | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Other   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>VIDEOGRAPHER</b>    |        |        |             |
| Wedding package fee                             | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Video copies                                    | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Other   | _____  | _____  | _____       |

|   | BUDGET | ACTUAL | PAID FOR BY |
|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>FLOWERS</b>                   |        |        |             |
| Bride's bouquet   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Bridesmaids' bouquets                                     | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Boutonnieres/corsages                                     | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Ceremony site flowers                                     | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Reception site flowers                                    | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Flower girl's flowers                                     | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Other   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MUSIC/ENTERTAINMENT</b>       |        |        |             |
| Ceremony  | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Reception   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Other   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>TRANSPORTATION</b>            |        |        |             |
| Limousine service   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Transportation for guests                                 | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Other transportation                                      | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>HEALTH &amp; BEAUTY</b>       |        |        |             |
| Hair & make-up  | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Manicure/pedicure   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Spa/skincare  | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>STATIONARY</b>                |        |        |             |
| Invitations/Reply cards                                   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Wedding programs  | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Thank you notes   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Announcements   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Maps/Save the date cards                                  | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Postage   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Other   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>ACCESSORIES FOR RECEPTION</b> |        |        |             |
| Cake knife & server                                       | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Cake topper   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Guest book & pen  | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Toasting flutes   | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Flower girl/Ringbearer accessories                        | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Favors for guests/cameras                                 | _____  | _____  | _____       |
| Other   | _____  | _____  | _____       |



|   | BUDGET | ACTUAL | PAID FOR BY |
|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>GIFTS</b>                           |        |        |             |
| Bridesmaids   | _____  |        |             |
| Groomsmen & Ushers  | _____  |        |             |
| Parents   | _____  |        |             |
| Other participants  | _____  |        |             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>WEDDING COORDINATION</b>            |        |        |             |
| Bridal consultant   | _____  |        |             |
| Event insurance   | _____  |        |             |
| Gift insurance  | _____  |        |             |
| Other   | _____  |        |             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>ADDITIONAL EXPENSES</b>             |        |        |             |
| Tax on products & services                                      | _____  |        |             |
| Tips for vendors  | _____  |        |             |
| Other   | _____  |        |             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>OPTIONAL EXPENSES</b>               |        |        |             |
| Wedding party accommodations                                    | _____  |        |             |
| Bridesmaids' gowns  | _____  |        |             |
| Flower girl's dress   | _____  |        |             |
| Groomsmen's formalwear  | _____  |        |             |
| Ringbearer's formalwear   | _____  |        |             |
| Bridal party luncheon   | _____  |        |             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>AND DON'T FORGET TO ACCOUNT FOR</b> |        |        |             |
| Bride's engagement ring   | _____  |        |             |
| Bride's wedding ring  | _____  |        |             |
| Groom's wedding ring  | _____  |        |             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>OTHER</b>                           | _____  |        |             |
|   | _____  |        |             |
|   | _____  |        |             |
|   | _____  |        |             |

With so much attention going toward details to make your wedding activities great, we thought you could use one more checklist to keep you looking great!

**WEDDING DAY APPAREL**

- Gown (pressed?)
- Shoes
- Lingerie (bra, bustier, slip, petticoat)
- Jewelry
- Hosiery and garter

**WEDDING DAY EMERGENCY KIT**

- Phone numbers for bridal party, bridal consultant, and vendors
- Sewing kit: thread, needle, safety pins, and scissors

**MAKE-UP**

- Skin care (cleansers and moisturizers)
- Hair care (curlers, brush, comb, styling products, bobby pins)
- Nail polish (touch-up color, and clear to stop runs in hosiery)
- Extra hosiery
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash
- Antacid
- Portable iron or steamer
- Hand mirror
- Disposable wipes and tissues
- Breathmints
- Anti-cling spray
- Tape
- Somethings: old, new, borrowed, and blue
- Cash (coins & bills)

**WEDDING DAY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Give groom's ring to maid (matron)-of-honor
- Confirm location of marriage license
- Look radiant and relax



Today's groom is more involved than ever before. From the start, he has a role in planning the wedding. To help your groom participate in the process, here are checklists just for him:

#### 12 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING DAY:

- Select & purchase bride's engagement ring or wedding ring set

#### 10 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Choose & notify best man, groomsmen, & ushers (one usher per 50 guests)
- Start planning the honeymoon

#### 6 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Assist fiancée with making accommodations arrangements for out-of-town guests
- Assist fiancée in selecting formalwear for you & the groomsmen
- Notify groomsmen to send size information to you or to the formalwear store
- Assist fiancée with placing formalwear order
- Plan rehearsal dinner with your parents

#### 2 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Select a gift for your bride & gifts for your groomsmen

#### 1 MONTH BEFORE:

- Pick up wedding rings & check engraving
- Assist fiancée with thank-you notes for gifts received

#### 2 WEEKS BEFORE:

- Confirm honeymoon plan & details (tickets, reservations, passports, rentals, traveler's checks)
- Assist fiancée with writing toasts for rehearsal dinner & wedding reception
- Schedule haircut &/or styling appointment
- Arrange move to new home (if applicable)
- Notify post office of change of address (if applicable)
- Attend bachelor party or dinner

#### ONE WEEK BEFORE:

- Remind groomsmen about time/place for rehearsal, rehearsal dinner, & wedding
- Remind groomsmen of pick-up time/place for formalwear
- Pack for honeymoon

#### ONE DAY BEFORE:

- Present gifts to groomsmen at rehearsal dinner
- Instruct head usher or all ushers about seating arrangements for family & guests
- Pick up formalwear (& groomsmen's formalwear, if applicable)
- Check wedding day apparel (see list below)

#### WEDDING DAY:

- Give officiant's fee (in a sealed envelope) to best man for delivery
- Give bride's ring to best man for presentation at ceremony
- Give marriage license to best man or Bridal Consultant for signature session after ceremony
- Relax & enjoy yourself

#### PERSONAL CHECKLIST FOR THE GROOM:

- Wedding Day Apparel (check this the day before)
- Dress shirt
- Tuxedo (correct size & style)
- Shoes
- Dress socks
- Undergarments
- Cummerbund
- Suspenders
- Studs/cufflinks
- Hat
- Handkerchief

#### WEDDING DAY EMERGENCY KIT:

- Phone numbers for groomsmen & vendors
- Sewing kit: thread, needle, safety pins, & scissors
- Hair care (comb, styling products)
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash
- Antacid
- Disposable wipes & tissues
- Breathmints
- Anti-cling spray
- Tape
- Cash (coins & bills)



**RESPONSIBILITIES**

|  | NAME  | PHONE/CELL | E-MAIL |
|--|-------|------------|--------|
| Bride's wedding apparel                  | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Bride's emergency kit                    | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Groom's wedding apparel                  | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Groom's emergency kit                    | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Rings & marriage license                 | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Ring bearer pillow/flower girl basket    | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Wedding programs                         | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Cake knife, server, toasting flutes      | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Favors, guestbook, pen                   | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Guest book attendant                     | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Gift table attendant                     | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Toasts & announcements of couple         | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Give payments to officiant & vendors     | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Collect/transport of gifts               | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Collect/return rental apparel            | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Collect bride's apparel                  | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Collect bride's bouquet for preservation | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Collect top layer of cake and topper     | _____ | _____      | _____  |

**VENDORS' CONTACT INFO**

|                          | NAME  | PHONE/CELL | E-MAIL |
|--------------------------|-------|------------|--------|
| Bridal Consultant        | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Ceremony site contact    | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Reception site contact   | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Rental equipment contact | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Officiant                | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Ceremony musicians       | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Reception musicians      | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Caterer                  | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Cake designer/baker      | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Florist                  | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Photographer             | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Videographer             | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Transportation service   | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Hair & make-up stylists  | _____ | _____      | _____  |
| Notes                    | _____ | _____      | _____  |
|                          | _____ | _____      | _____  |
|                          | _____ | _____      | _____  |
|                          | _____ | _____      | _____  |





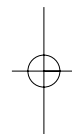
After the festivity of your beautiful wedding and honeymoon, you will be starting a new phase of your life - this time with a partner! It's exciting to think about the possibilities.

Even before the wedding, you can start taking care of administrative details for the transition from "I" to "We."

**FOR THE BRIDE: WHAT ABOUT YOUR NAME?**

As the bride, you have to decide whether to change your name to reflect your married status. Your decision should be based on personal preference, career considerations, family considerations, and financial considerations. You have options:

- Take your new husband's last name,
- Keep your maiden name
- Hyphenate your last name to include your husband's
- Use two names: maiden name for career purposes husband's name for social and family purposes
- It is acceptable and legal in the United States to sign your marriage license using a maiden name or a married name (except in Hawaii where the married name must be used). After that, it is up to you to determine how you wish to be addressed by the public.



**FOR THE COUPLE: WHAT NEEDS TO BE UPGRADED, AMENDED, OR CHANGED?**

It can be daunting to consider the number of documents, policies, and service records that must be updated to reflect your new, married status. Here is a list to help you get started on this process as soon as possible:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auto registration             | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical/dental records             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car insurance policy          | <input type="checkbox"/> Memberships                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bank & credit card account(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Passport                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Credit reporting agencies     | <input type="checkbox"/> Post Office records                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deeds/Titles                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security records            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driver's license              | <input type="checkbox"/> Stock certificates                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employee records              | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax agency records (state/federal) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investment account(s)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter registration records         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life insurance policy         | <input type="checkbox"/> Wills/Trusts                       |