

## **Checklist for Bride & Groom**

### **12 Months before;**

Announce the engagement in the newspaper.

Send out engagement announcements.

Plan an engagement party.

Discuss wedding arrangements with parents.

Determine if parents will be assisting with wedding costs.

Meet with wedding planner to begin preparations & decide on style & theme of wedding.

Finalize wedding date.

Decide on ceremony & reception venues.

Select bridal party & other attendants – ask if they would participate in wedding.

Prepare invitation list.

Open a joint wedding/reception checking account separate from either personal accounts.

### **10 - 11 Months before;**

Determine what customs and/or traditions, personalized vows, readings or exchanges you would like to include in ceremony (lighting of unity candle, flower to mothers, etc).

Select & meet with wedding officiant.

### **8 - 9 Months before;**

Sign up for premarital counseling, if required.

Bride to select & purchase wedding dress, veil, shoes, lingerie & accessories.

Bride to select bridesmaids & flower girl dresses & accessories.

### **6 - 7 Months before;**

Make arrangements to have bridesmaids & flower girl fitted with dresses.

Have mothers select their dresses.

Get listed at a gift registry & select desired gifts.

Provide any deposits for vendors.

Begin planning & booking honeymoon – transportation, airline tickets, hotels, entertainment, update passports, visas and any inoculations required.

Provide information to planner on number of out-of-town guests, how many rooms required and number of nights to stay. Determine where you prefer your guests to stay (bed & breakfast, beach resort, rental home or hotel).

Sign all vendor/suppliers contracts (review contracts with planner first).

### **5 Months before;**

Select invitation design.

Select ceremony music.

Select reception music & list of requested songs.

Determine how active you want the DJ (if used) to be in the flow of events for your reception (make introductions, announcements, keep evening very structured, etc).

Decide how you want the evening to go – (lots of good dance music, soft background music, music from a certain era, etc).

Finalize wedding invitation list.

### **4 Months before;**

Review budget with planner to stay on track.

Purchase wedding rings & arrange engravings.

Groom select attire and get fitted for tux or formalwear and shoes.

Have groomsmen, ring bearer and ushers fitted for tux or formalwear and shoes.

Meet with caterer to discuss style for reception and menu options.

Select who will speak at ceremony and/or reception, toasts, etc – ask if they will perform these duties.

Select someone to handle guest book at ceremony & reception.

Select someone to hand out ceremony programs.

Select someone to handle any gifts/checks brought to wedding or reception to ensure their safekeeping.

Select someone to watch your home during wedding if (shower/early) gifts are being stored there.

Reserve honeymoon suite for wedding night.

Bride to reserve Bride's Room (if not already available) for final preparations before wedding.

Make arrangements for a rehearsal dinner & day-after-wedding brunch, if desired. (Especially if you have out-of-town guests).

### **3 Months before;**

Bride to make appointments for hair, make-up & manicure/pedicure for wedding. Plan a hair-day to test different hair styles & make-up.

Get blood tests and/or medical exams, if necessary.

Finalize food/menu & beverage selections.

Select any readings and readers for ceremony.

Meet with officiant to review ceremony & finalize vows.

Determine what customs and/or traditions you would like to include at the ceremony & reception, such as cake cutting, bouquet toss etc.

Finalize time & location of rehearsal.

Provide final wedding invitation list to planner.

### **2 Months before;**

Bride & bridesmaids to arrange final wedding attire fitting.

Bride to prepare list for bridal shower & give to maid of honor.

Groom to prepare list of men for bachelor's party and give to best man.

Bride to select going away outfit.

### **1 Months before;**

Obtain marriage license (within legal time frame required).

Send out thank-you cards for gifts received.

Pick up wedding rings – ensure fit and engraving.

Finalize lists of photos to be taken and video to be shot at wedding & reception.

Give to photographer/videographer.

Purchase gifts for bridal attendants, parents, ushers and each other. 3 Weeks before;

Advise planner of any special seating arrangements for reception.

Bride to go to trial hair & make-up appointments and confirm wedding day appointments.

Prepare wedding reception toasts and/or speech.

Update insurance policies (life, household, car etc).

Complete change of name, address paper work.

Select individual to arrange for the return of the groom's attire & shoes.

Select individual to drop off bride's gown at the cleaners.

Select individual to take flowers to have pressed after ceremony.

Select individuals to gather gifts & envelopes and transport to a designated home after the reception.

## **2 Weeks before;**

Bride & bridesmaids to pick up their gowns/dresses and all accessories including veil, lingerie, shoes, jewelry.

Bride to decide to wear something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.

Pick up all tickets, itinerary, traveler's checks, etc for honeymoon.

Provide honeymoon information to close friend or family member.

Bride to arrange bridesmaid's luncheon and give gifts to attendants.

Groom to arrange groomsmen get-together to give gifts to attendants.

Groom to get hair cut.

## **1 Weeks before;**

Meet with planner to review all wedding plans.

Prepare final checks for all vendors and place in a designated spot (leave blank if total is unknown or gratuity is added).

Pack for honeymoon including clothes, toiletries, tickets, passports, visas, maps, guide books, traveler's checks, money etc.

Pack for wedding night including going away outfits, wedding night clothes & next-day clothes and toiletries.

Arrange for temporary stop of newspaper & mail while you're away. 2 Days before;

Groom and attendants to pick up their attire & shoes.

Bride to get manicure/pedicure.

Give gifts to parents & each other.

Confirm early meeting time for bridal party for the day of the wedding.

## **Day before wedding;**

Attend rehearsal (arrive about 20 minutes early).

Groom to give bride's ring to best man (or planner if a ring bearer is involved).

Bride to give groom's ring to maid of honor (or planner if a ring bearer is involved).

Attend wedding rehearsal dinner party.

## **Day of wedding;**

Remember to eat something.

Bride to get hair & make-up done.

Get dressed.

Bride to wear something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.

Bride to wear garter.

Get to the ceremony venue on time.

Enjoy the day.

## **After the wedding;**

Send the wedding announcement to newspaper.

Send out wedding announcement cards.

Send out thank you cards for gifts.

Send out change of address cards.

Complete any name change paperwork.

Make sure you have marriage license.

Pick up wedding dress from cleaners.

Pick up pressed flowers.

Update wills.