

# EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR THAT SPECIAL DAY!

## Six to Twelve Months Ahead

- Inform your families. Perhaps you'd like to throw an engagement party for family and friends.
- Work with your families to draw up a wedding budget. To avoid confusion later, make sure the responsibility of expenditures is mutually agreed upon ahead of time. Traditionally the bride's family paid for the affair. However, the bride and groom are now more likely to share the wedding expenses with both families.
- Write an official engagement notice and send it to your local newspaper. Remember to send a copy to newspapers in your parent's and grandparents' hometowns if they desire.

*\*\*Plan Ahead: Now is the time to have your engagement photo taken. Have several black and white photos developed for newspapers and order color photos if you want to enclose them with your wedding invitations.*

- Decide on the place and time for the wedding ceremony. If you would like a religious ceremony performed in a church or synagogue but are not a member, you might have to make several contacts before finding an opening. In addition, many engaged couples are often asked to attend a premarital class. You should check with your place of worship about this requirement.
- As soon as the date is set, reserve a place for the reception. If you are having an outdoor ceremony, reserve chairs and tent.
- Interview and contract the photographer as soon as possible. You may also want to contract a professional videographer.
- Hire musicians for the ceremony and reception.
- Book a caterer for reception if needed.
- Choose your wedding party.

*\*\*Plan Ahead. Bridal attendants and groomsmen traditionally purchase or rent their own attire. Contact them in advance to make sure they will have time to plan for the expense.*

- The Bride should shop for her gown and headpiece, as well as for attendants' dresses. If they will be custom-made, book a dressmaker. Don't forget to schedule fittings and alterations.

## Four to Six Months Ahead

- The Groom should choose and reserve formalwear for himself and his attendants.

*\*\*Plan Ahead: Bring groomsmen's measurements when reserving formalwear. (Neck size, length of arm, waist, inseam and shoe size.)*

- The couple should choose items for bridal registry.
- Finalize guest list, including proper names of all invited and their current addresses.
- Finalize a honeymoon budget and visit a travel agent to make the proper reservations. If you are leaving the country, check on passport, insurance, and immunization requirements.
- Visit your florist and choose floral arrangements for the ceremony, reception, and wedding party.

## Three Months Ahead

- Work with wedding officiator to plan ceremony.

- Order invitations, programs, and other stationary.

*\*\*Plan ahead: It will take about a month for printing and making corrections.*

- If you did not do so prior to your engagement, shop for wedding rings. Custom-designed jewelry takes longer. Check with your jeweler in advance.
- Order a wedding cake if not supplied by your caterer.
- Plan transportation to the ceremony and reception for the wedding party.
- Reserve accommodations for out-of-town guests. Confirm them as you receive responses.

*\*\*Plan Ahead: Contact nearby hotels early. Rooms are booked far in advance for conventions and local events that may occur at the same time as your wedding.*

## One to Two Months Ahead

- Mail invitations six to eight weeks in advance.
- Purchase marriage license. If required, schedule blood tests.
- Schedule the rehearsal. Make reservations for the rehearsal dinner and send invitations to members of the wedding party.
- Make wedding day beauty appointments for the bride and attendants.
- Finalize set-up times for the photographer and videographer.
- Bride should complete shopping of her honeymoon wardrobe.
- Plan Bridal Luncheon. Book caterer and order floral arrangements. Send invitations to bridal attendants.

## One to Two Weeks Ahead

- Purchase and wrap gifts for the attendants, groomsmen and new spouse.
- List and begin to pack clothing for honeymoon.
- Finalize reception guest list and inform caterer.
- Confirm pickup/delivery of bridal gown, headpiece, and formalwear.

## The Day Before

- Deliver marriage licence to wedding officiator
- Attend rehearsal and dinner.

## The Big Day

- Make sure honeymoon luggage is transferred to wedding night transportation.

*\*\*Plan Ahead: Don't forget car keys, airline tickets, and hotel confirmations!*

Congratulations you are married!!!