

### **Six to Twelve Months Before the Wedding**

- Announce your engagement to your family and friends
- Decide a day and time for the wedding
- Discuss a wedding budget with the groom (Include both sets of parents)
- Choose and Reserve a Wedding Site
- Decide style of wedding (formality, size, theme)
- Choose a color scheme for the wedding/reception
- Choose and Reserve a Reception Site
- Decide Reception style (buffet or sit-down dinner)
- Meet with officiating clergy to discuss ceremony ideas and premarital counseling
- Select the Bridesmaids and Groomsmen
- Try to set up a meeting between both sets of parents. (Normally, it is the groom's parents that make the first move to meet with the bride's parents)
- Select your gown, headpiece, and accessories. Schedule fitting appointments as needed.
- Select your bridesmaids and flower girl(s) gowns and shoes. (Select a gown that will be flattering for all of your bridesmaids)
- Meet and select a florist, caterer, photographer, videographer, DJ, ceremony musician(s) and singer(s), and a cake baker to discuss your ideas and budget
- Start attending Bridal Shows
- Have a black and white engagement photo taken for your announcement in the newspaper
- Register for wedding gifts at the stores of your choice
- Consider hiring a wedding consultant
- Find out your State's requirements for obtaining a marriage license.
- Send announcements of your engagement to your groom's and your hometown newspapers, as well as the newspaper in the town or towns where you both live
- Contact a travel agent to discuss honeymoon possibilities. \*\*If you are considering traveling out of the country for your honeymoon, you may need to update your passport. You may also need a copy of your birth certificate. If you cannot find it, order it soon.
- Send out "Save the Date" cards to your out-of-town guests
- Develop some kind of record-keeping system for gifts, invitations, thank-you notes, and payments to wedding vendors

### **Three to Six Months Before the Wedding**

- Finalize the wedding budget and decide who pays for what
- Make honeymoon plans and reservations
- Choose and order your wedding rings and have them engraved
- Make an appointment for your bridal portrait
- Help both mothers select their dresses for the wedding
- Finalize dates for showers and parties with bridesmaids and friends
- Start premarital counseling, if required
- Begin compiling your guest list for wedding invitations and announcements
- Order wedding invitations, announcements and personal stationery
- Select and book a calligrapher, if needed
- Order wedding cake and groom's cake
- Discuss and finalize ceremony music with the musicians
- Begin writing some parts of your marriage vows, if desired
- See your doctor for a complete physical exam and discuss birth control, if needed. Also, If you will be traveling to another country for your honeymoon, you may need some immunizations. Discuss with your doctor
- Assist the groom's family in planning the rehearsal dinner
- Start make-up lessons and hairstyles. Set up appointment for make-up, hair, and nails for your Bridal Portrait and Wedding Day
- Select hotel arrangements for your out-of-town guest
- Select and reserve any rental equipment if needed (candelabras, tables/chairs, tents, linens)
- Begin shopping for honeymoon attire

### **Two to Three Months Before the Wedding**

- Select wedding day transportation (limo, carriage, boat, etc...)
- Have a trial-run for your make-up, nails, and hair before bridal portrait
- Take Bridal Portrait (at least two months before the wedding)
- Begin addressing wedding invitations and announcements. Think of a reliable person to mail the announcements the day of the wedding
- Assist groom's family select and reserve site for rehearsal dinner
- Find a floral preservationist for your bridal bouquet keepsake
- Shop for and order party favors
- If you have pets, arrange for their care while you are away on your honeymoon (pet sitter, vet, friend, family member)
- If you will have many guest that have children, consider hiring a baby-sitter
- Make and print up directions to the church and reception site to be mailed in the wedding invitation
- Purchase the attendant's gifts
- Shop for a gift for your groom to give him at the Rehearsal Dinner
- Plan details for rehearsal dinner
- Sign up for dance lessons at a professional dance studio
- Plan some activities for your out-of-town guests

### **Two to Six Weeks Before the Wedding**

- Order a wedding program for your ceremony
- Mail Wedding Invitations six weeks before wedding
- Notes! Notes! Notes! Begin writing Thank-you notes for gifts received at showers and in the mail
- Confirm Honeymoon reservations and pick up tickets
- Discuss ceremony and reception seating with both sets of family members
- Confirm ceremony details with officiant
- Buy disposable cameras
- Set up an area in your home to display gifts
- Plan a luncheon or dinner with bridesmaids
- Buy a basket for the flower girl and a pillow for the ring bearer
- Finalize floral selections
- Wear your wedding shoes around the house to break them in
- Put together a "welcome basket" or a small special gift to be put in the hotel rooms of your out-of-town guest
- Discuss with your baker about making a special Groom's Cake for both the rehearsal dinner and reception
- Send wedding announcement information with a photo to your groom's and your hometown newspapers, as well as the newspaper in the town or towns where you both live
- Attend bachelor and bachelorette parties
- Pick up wedding rings (Check for correct fitting and engraving)
- Pick up wedding gown
- Get marriage license
- Pick a guest book attendant
- Make up and print up directions to the rehearsal dinner site to be included in the Rehearsal Dinner Invitations
- Finalize reception menu
- Choose someone to take groom's tux back to the rental store after the wedding
- Take care of any business and legal details (changing name, joint banking accounts, address changes, etc...)
- Begin packing for honeymoon
- Mail Rehearsal Dinner Invitations
- Plan out reception layout, seating and finish writing place cards
- Have FINAL fitting for gown and headpiece

### **One Week Before the Wedding**

- Review and finalize details with your florist, photographer, videographer, ceremony and reception musicians. Give them lists of special requests (Photo shots, music to play)
- Remind bridesmaids and ushers to pick up their dresses and tuxedos
- Create a Wedding Day Schedule
- Familiarize yourself with guests names

- Pick up Travelers Checks for Honeymoon
- Finalize guest list and give final count to caterer and reception site management
- Begin packing the Bride's Emergency Kit (white chalk, needle and thread, extra hosiery, etc.)
- Send all wedding vendors a schedule of wedding day events
- Finalize transportation for parents and attendants from ceremony site to the reception site (if needed)
- Discuss details with attendants such as schedule of wedding events, transportation and tasks you would like each attendant to assist you with
- Continue writing Thank-You notes
- Assign someone to transport gifts, guest book, and personal belongings from reception site
- Confirm rehearsal dinner arrangements
- Finish addressing and stamping wedding announcements
- Inform ushers of seating arrangements for wedding ceremony
- Arrange for Post Office to hold your mail.
- Pick a day to pamper yourself and your bridesmaids with a massage, manicure and pedicure
- If you own pets, finalize details and confirm care for them with your pet sitter, vet, or friend/family member

### **One Day Before the Wedding**

- Attend the Bridesmaids' luncheon
- Finish packing for your honeymoon
- If you have guest coming from out-of-town arriving by plane, either you and your groom greet them or at least have someone meet them at the airport
- Make sure you have everything packed for the church including the items listed in the Bride's Emergency Kit Checklist
- Deliver the guest favors, disposable cameras, table centerpieces, cake knife and server, toasting glasses, etc. to the reception site
- Attend Rehearsal and Rehearsal Dinner. Hand out a Wedding Day Schedule to all participants
- Inform ushers of seating arrangements at the Rehearsal
- Exchange gifts with your groom
- Try to get plenty of sleep

### **Wedding Day**

- Have a good breakfast
- Have someone mail the Wedding Announcements after the wedding
- Take a soothing bath to calm your nerves
- Let the people you hired handle all the details
- Send a special note of thanks to both sets of parents, attendants, close friends, and anyone who has assisted you in planning your wedding
- Have professionals do your hair, nails and make-up
- Take your time getting dressed.
- Bring marriage license to ceremony
- Give wedding rings to best man and maid of honor
- Groom gives best man tip envelope for officiant
- Thank your attendants for their help and support
- Relax, breath deeply, smile and enjoy your special day that you have worked so hard to plan!!!!**