

Wedding Timeline/Checklist

The following checklist will help you as you plan your wedding celebration. Remember, however, that these are only suggested guidelines. While this timeline proposes beginning your planning as much as 4-6 months ahead of time, many beautiful weddings have been planned in less time.

Read through the guidelines and check “To Do” next to those that are relevant to your celebration. Later, check the “Done” column when the items are completed.

As Soon As Possible

To Do	Done	
_____	_____	Decide on type of wedding and reception you will have.
_____	_____	Develop a wedding budget. Talk about how expenses will be paid.
_____	_____	Choose an officiant and location. Meet with the officiant to discuss ceremony requirements and pre-wedding counseling needs.
_____	_____	Set a wedding date and reserve wedding locations (church and reception).
_____	_____	Meet with ceremony musicians. Ask for guidelines and suggestions.
_____	_____	Begin to create your own ceremony. Talk with your partner and families about various aspects and traditions.
_____	_____	Choose music for the ceremony (opening music, processional, recessional, songs and hymns).
_____	_____	Discuss and choose Scripture readings and other special readings.
_____	_____	Begin to write your vows, etc.
_____	_____	Plan ceremony format and discuss with officiant.
_____	_____	Choose attendants if you wish to have any.
_____	_____	Choose wedding attire.
_____	_____	Choose rings or other symbols.
_____	_____	Begin making a guest list.
_____	_____	Plan reception entertainment. Choose musicians, if needed.
_____	_____	Decide on decorations. Visit florists or others who will help with decorations.
_____	_____	Choose food coordinator(s) and discuss menu options.
_____	_____	Choose a photographer, if needed.
_____	_____	Plan pre-wedding gatherings. Introduce your families if they do not already know one another.
_____	_____	
_____	_____	

Three Months Before

To Do Done

- _____ _____ Talk about what kinds of gifts might be appropriate. Do you want to make gift suggestions to guests? How?
- _____ _____ Register at a store and/or choose a social justice organization(s) to receive gifts.
- _____ _____ Design invitations.
- _____ _____ Order flowers, banner, balloons, etc.
- _____ _____ Finalize guest list.
- _____ _____ Participate in pre-wedding counseling.
- _____ _____ Visit doctor for complete medical examinations, including blood tests.
- _____ _____
- _____ _____

Two Months Before

To Do Done

- _____ _____ Address and mail invitations.
- _____ _____ Confirm dates and arrangements with officiant, food coordinator(s), musicians, etc.
- _____ _____ Meet with officiant about final ceremony plans and contents. Make sure that any requirements are included.
- _____ _____ Make arrangements for rehearsal and dinner, if needed.
- _____ _____ Plan lodging and transportation for out-of-town guests.
- _____ _____ Decide on honeymoon plans and make reservations, if needed.
- _____ _____ Decide where you will live after the wedding.
- _____ _____
- _____ _____

One Month Before

To Do Done

- _____ _____ Apply for marriage license.
- _____ _____ If you plan to change your name(s), do so on credit cards, drivers' licenses, social security cards, bank accounts, etc.
- _____ _____ Make sure wedding attire fits properly.
- _____ _____ Get any accessories needed for attire.
- _____ _____ Choose gifts for attendants and partner, if desired.
- _____ _____
- _____ _____

Two Weeks Before

To Do Done

- _____ _____ Check with officiant about final ceremony details.
- _____ _____ Choose or borrow unity candles, if needed.
- _____ _____ Send notes to ceremony participants about rehearsal time and date. Include dinner invitation, if needed.
- _____ _____ Design and prepare wedding bulletins, if needed.
- _____ _____ Count R.S.V.P.s and give food coordinator a final number.
- _____ _____ Make seating charts if you are planning a sit-down dinner.
- _____ _____ Send wedding announcement to newspapers, if desired.
- _____ _____ Send thank-you notes for all gifts received so far.
- _____ _____
- _____ _____

One Week Before

To Do Done

- _____ _____ Have a final consultation with the officiant and wedding service providers or friends, including those who will be providing music, decorations, food, and photographs.
- _____ _____ Begin packing for honeymoon, if necessary.
- _____ _____
- _____ _____

The Day Before

To Do Done

- _____ _____ Wash and clean cars.
- _____ _____ Attend the rehearsal, if needed.
- _____ _____ Place fees/gifts for officiant, musicians, and others in sealed envelopes and choose a person to distribute them on the wedding day.
- _____ _____ Pack an emergency bag—tissues, aspirin, needle, thread, safety pins, pantyhose, etc.
- _____ _____ Relax!
- _____ _____
- _____ _____