

Wedding Protocol

Expenses relating to your wedding will add up quickly, so it makes perfect sense to determine early on which cost will be paid by whom. Traditionally, the greater share of the wedding expenses has rested on the bride & her family. However, today it is not unusual for the groom or his family to assume part of the financial obligation.

The list below details the traditional financial responsibilities of the wedding & reception. Use it as a guide in planning the budgeting, tailoring it to your own wedding.

Bride

- Groom's Wedding Ring
- Groom's Wedding Gift
- Bridesmaid's Gifts

Bride's Family

- Invitations
- Wedding Gift for the Bride & Groom
- Bride's Gown, Veil & Accessories
- Bride's Trousseau
- Rental of the Sanctuary
- Any fees for the Organist, Soloist or other Musicians
- Flowers for the Church
- Bridesmaids' Bouquets
- Reception Expenses (such as rental fee, catering, wedding cake,
 - Bar, music, flowers, decorations and gratuities)
 - Engagement & Wedding Portraits
 - Wedding & Reception photography
- Transportation for the bridal party on the wedding day
- Valet Parking Charges

Bridal Attendants

- Their own gown & accessories
- Their own travel expense to & from the wedding
- Wedding Gift (s) for the Bride & Groom
- Lodging

Maid/Matron of Honor

- May host a bridal shower

Groom

- Bride's engagement & wedding ring
- Brides wedding gift
- Gifts for best man & groomsmen
- Marriage License
- Clergyman's or Judge's Fee
- Lodging for Out-of-Town Groomsmen
- Bride's Bouquet & her going away corsage
- Flowers for the Mothers & Grandmothers
- Boutonnieres for all the men in the Wedding Party

Groom's Family

- Their own wedding clothes
- Their own travel expense to & from the wedding
- Their lodging
- Wedding Gift for the Bride & Groom
- Bachelor's Dinner
- Rehearsal Dinner

Groomsmen

- (There should be one groomsman for every 50 guests)
- Their own wedding attire
- Groom may elect to furnish accessories
- Wedding Gift (s) for the Bride & Groom
- Their own travel expenses to & from the Wedding
- Lodging

Best Man

- Deliver of the Officiant's Fee

Bride's Calendar

Planning a formal wedding takes more than twelve months

6 – 12 Months Before

- Determine the type of wedding you want.
Size, setting, degree of formality
- Discuss wedding budget with your parents, Finance,
Perhaps his parents
- Plan a color scheme for wedding reception
- Chose your dress & headpiece
- Determine the size of the guest list
- Select wedding attendants, yours & his
- Select florist & discuss color scheme
- Select & book entertainment
- Select & book videographer
- Select & book photographer
- Choose music & musicians/soloists/harpist
For ceremony & reception
- Consult a travel agent for honeymoon ideas
- Complete honeymoon plans with groom
- Announce your engagement in the newspaper
- Select & register for china, silver, etc.

4 – 6 Months Before

- Shop together for wedding rings
- Select & book transportation for wedding
Day
- Select baker & order wedding cake, groom's Cake
& mints
- Set date to order attendant's dresses, confirm delivery
Date for your dress
- Begin shopping for men's wedding attire
- Complete your guest list
- Order invitations & announcements; start addressing
Them upon receipt
- Shop for trousseau
- Check marriage license requirements

2 – 3 Months Before

- Select & book cosmetics/skin specialist
- Confirm all details with your hired professional
- Confirm ceremony details with your officiate
- Select the men's wedding attire & order the
Right sizes
- Purchase accessories such as toasting goblets, ring
Pillow, garter, candles, etc.
- Buy groom's wedding gift
- Arrange rehearsal details
- Discuss rehearsal dinner with groom

- Arrange accommodations for out-of-town
Attendants & guests
- Finalize honeymoon plans
- Pick up wedding rings, check engraving
- Mail invitations
- Write thank-you notes for gifts
- Schedule fittings & delivery date

1 Month Before

- Have final dress & headpiece fitting
- Have formal bridal portrait done
- Purchase gifts for wedding participants
- Complete shopping for your trousseau
- Have attendant's parties
- Ensure that your accessories are in order -
Toasting goblets, garter, candles, ring pillow, etc.
- Finalize rehearsal dinner details
- Draw map to direct guests to ceremony & reception

1 – 2 Weeks Before

- Give final guest count to caterer
- Confirm all honeymoon reservations & accommodations
- Pick up tickets & & travelers checks
- Begin your honeymoon packing
- Make sure you have marriage license
- Pick up wedding attire, make sure everything fits
- Keep up with gift acknowledgements
- Finish addressing your announcements to mail on your
Wedding day
- Rehearse wedding ceremony with all participants
- Remind maid of honor, bridesmaids of rehearsal dinner
Details; present gifts to attendants at rehearsal dinner
- Get a good night's sleep the night before your wedding
Day

On The Wedding Day

- Remain calm & try to relax
- Don't forget to bring the wedding rings & marriage
License