



Many tasks to be done

Plan ahead for an easier wedding

Many things have to be taken care of before a couple is ready to walk down the aisle. The following is a partial list of things that the bride and groom will need to accomplish before the actual ceremony and a time-table to schedule those tasks.

Enlisting a friend -- or two -- to help plan the wedding can ensure that nothing is left out.

BRIDE

9 to 12 months before the ceremony:

- Select a wedding date and time.
- Set up a preliminary budget.
- Reserve ceremony and reception location.
- Decide on size of guest list; compile names and addresses.
- Select attendants.
- Select caterer, photographer and florist.
- Pick out dress and bridesmaids' dresses.
- Announce engagement.
- Decide on officiant (minister/judge/priest).

4 to 6 months before the ceremony:

- Some religions require pre-marital counseling. If this is necessary, schedule it now.
- Make final ceremony arrangements with any contract or deposits.
- Order invitations.
- Check legal requirements.
- Shop for wedding rings.
- Start planning for honeymoon.
- Select and order wedding invitations.
- Decide on final menu for reception.
- Choose flowers to be carried, flowers for church.

3 to 6 months before the ceremony:

- Plan music for ceremony and reception.
- Address invitations (mail four to six weeks before wedding).

- Order cake.
- Make rehearsal dinner arrangements.
- Register with bridal registry.

1 month before the ceremony:

- Have final fittings of wedding apparel.
- Have blood test and get marriage license.
- Be sure all accessories are purchased (including extra pairs of hose, etc.).

1 week before:

- Give final count of guests to the caterer (or whoever is supplying food for the wedding).
- Give photographer a list of desired pictures.
- Send change of address cards to the post office, if moving.
- Release wedding news to local papers.
- Give musicians list of music desired.
- Pack honeymoon suitcase.
- Have rehearsal and rehearsal dinner with participants.

The day of the ceremony:

- Be sure to eat something before the ceremony.
- Have music start one-half hour before the ceremony.
- Have guests seated.
- Have groom's parents seated five minutes before ceremony.
- Have bride's mother seated.

GROOM

6 to 12 months before:

- Purchase bride's engagement ring.
- Discuss date and type of ceremony with fiancée.
- Choose best man and ushers.
- Start planning honeymoon.

4 months before:

- Shop for wedding rings.
- Complete guest list.
- Select and order men's formals.
- Finalize all honeymoon plans.

2 months before:

- Meet with officiant to finalize details.
- Assist parents with rehearsal dinner party plans.
- Discuss floral arrangement (expenses are traditionally the groom's responsibility).

1 month before:

- Make sure attendants have been fitted and formals have been ordered.
- Get wedding rings, make sure they fit.
- Take care of legal aspects.

2 weeks before:

- Gather necessary documents with fiancée.
- Arrange transportation for wedding day.
- If moving, give change of address card to post office.
- If not, make room for fiancée's belongings.

1 week before:

- Discuss final details with fiancée.
- Pick up wedding attire and try it on.
- Reconfirm honeymoon arrangements.
- Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner party.

The day of the ceremony:

- Eat something in the morning.
- Start dressing one hour before ceremony.
- Give best man the bride's wedding ring, officiant's fee and marriage license to hold.
- Have best man and maid of honor sign wedding certificate.



Marriage values mirror changes in social conditions

By Lisa Donovan
Senior Editor

Although Americans consistently view marriage as an important societal institution, marital attitudes seem to reflect the social and economic conditions of the times, one UNL professor said.

Craig Johnson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln sociology professor, said, "Society is moving toward a liberal swing that may have consequences for marriage and family."

Students and non-students alike are more aware of social issues, Johnson said.

According to Johnson, society is seeing a "swing away from the 'meism' of the '80s."

A long time ago, Johnson said, economic stability of the family took priority to happiness, because it was necessary to survive.

"The economic centrality of the family has declined," he said.

With the changing roles of men and women, Johnson said, "society is more individually oriented."

Johnson said if the economy took a plunge and job opportunities were tight, people would have to rely on each other a lot more.

"If there was a depression tomorrow, I think that the family unit would become stronger," he said.

But as couples venture into married life, there are several signs of the times.

Johnson said as people move away from the materialism associated with the '80s, they are less willing to do things like "blow big bucks on wedding rings."

On the other hand, people will continue to have big traditional weddings.

And following a trend of the 1980s, Johnson said we will see more and more couples waiting until they're a little older before getting married.

Many couples want to fulfill themselves individually, before they can make a good and happy life with one another.

Although qualifying a good marriage is subjective, Johnson said he thinks there are a few things he sees as prerequisite.

Sharing common interests as well as the same educational background can produce a healthy and happy marriage.

Research indicates that people who pur-


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