

## **Etiquette & Traditional Responsibility**

*Weddings are steeped in tradition...Over the years, certain expectations have been associated with the Bride, the Bride's family, the Groom, and the Groom's family...Here's a look at some of the basics of wedding etiquette...*

Traditionally, the Bride is financially responsible for the Groom's wedding ring, the Groom's wedding gift, Bridal Attendants' gifts, personal stationery, any medical exams and blood tests, and accommodations for out-of-town attendants.

The Bride's family is usually financially responsible for the engagement party, the wedding ceremony, the wedding reception, the bridal gown, a gift for the Bride and Groom, the wedding invitations and announcements, the bridesmaids' bouquets, the bridal party transportation, the bridesmaids' luncheon, the wedding photography, the wedding floral decorations, and special items like the ring pillow and toasting goblets.

The Groom is financially responsible for the Bride's engagement ring, the Bride's wedding ring, a gift for the Bride, Best Man and Usher gifts, the Groom's wedding day attire, the Bride's bouquet, the Bride's going away corsage, the Mothers' corsages, the Fathers' and Groom's Attendants' boutonnieres, any medical exams and blood tests, the Marriage License, the Officiant's fee, the honeymoon, and the bachelor dinner.

The Groom's family is usually financially responsible for the Rehearsal Dinner party, accommodations and travel for the Groom's family, a gift for the Bride and Groom, and special items like the ring pillow and toasting goblets.

Both the Bride's and Groom's attendants typically are responsible for the cost of their wedding attire, travel costs, a gift for the Bride and Groom, any Bridal or Couple showers, the bachelor party, and the Bachelorette party.

In a Christian church ceremony it is customary for the Bride's mother to be the last one seated. She is usually seated in the first pew on the left side of the aisle along with the Bride's father. If the parents are divorced, the mother should still be seated in the first pew on the left but the father can either sit there or in the second or third row. If the mother of the bride is remarried, her husband should sit with her. If the father of the bride is remarried, his wife should sit with him. If they aren't remarried, their escorts should be seated with the rest of the guests.

It is important to consider each religious faith's traditions when planning your wedding ceremony. Be sure to consult with your Officiant and wedding coordinators as to the "rights" and "wrongs" for each faith.

The receiving line at the beginning of the reception usually consists of the Bride's mother as hostess. Often, the father of the bride is not included in the receiving line. If he is, he should stand to the left of his wife. If the parents are divorced and are to be included, a good idea is to put the Bride and Groom in between them in line.

Depending on the degree of formality of the reception, the entire Bridal Party can be seated at a head table. If there are divorced parents, consider seating them with their guests at their own table.

The Best Man usually performs the first toast of the wedding couple at the reception.

## **Ceremony Roles**

*A traditional ceremony has many roles for the important people in your life...Having a list of exactly who is doing what for your wedding is helpful when you get frazzled and need help...Here's a list of ceremony roles for you to input your family and friends' names for easy reference...*

Bride's Honor Attendant: \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaids: \_\_\_\_\_

Bridal Attendants: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Honor Attendant: \_\_\_\_\_

Groomsmen: \_\_\_\_\_

Ring Bearer: \_\_\_\_\_

Flower Girl(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Performer: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Activities**

*Here it is...Your top-to-bottom wedding activities planner...If it's happening in your wedding, it's on this list...Fill in the necessary details below so you can have a complete and accurate record of every wedding-related activity in your wedding experience...*

### **Engagement Party**

Date:

Time:

Location:

Hosts:

Phone:

Address:

### **Bridal Shower**

Date:

Time:

Location:

Hostess:

Phone:

Address:

**Bridal Luncheon**

Date:  
Time:  
Location:  
Hostess:  
Phone:  
Address:

**Bachelor Party**

Date:  
Time:  
Location:  
Hosts:  
Phone:  
Address:

**Bachelorette Party**

Date:  
Time:  
Location:  
Hostess:  
Phone:  
Address:

**Ceremony Rehearsal**

Date:  
Time:  
Location:  
Photography/Videography Time:  
Music:  
Contact Person:  
Phone:  
Address:

**Rehearsal Dinner**

Date:  
Time:  
Location:  
Vendors' Times:  
Photography/Videography:  
Music:  
Contact Person:  
Phone:  
Address:

**Wedding Ceremony:**

Date:  
Time:  
Location:  
Vendors' Contract Times:  
Photographer/Videographer:  
Transportation:  
Make-up/Hair:  
Florist:  
Music:  
Officiant:  
Dove/Butterfly/Balloon:  
Contact Person:  
Phone:  
Address:

**Wedding Reception:**

Date:  
Time:  
Locations:  
Cocktail:  
Primary:  
Vendors' Contract Times:  
Photography/Videography Time:  
Transportation:  
Caterer:  
Bartender:  
Florist:  
Music:  
Cake:  
Contact Person:  
Phone:  
Address:

**Post-Wedding Brunch**

Date:  
Time:  
Location:  
Hostess:  
Phone:  
Address: