

Happily Ever After Begins Here...

Your wedding day is one of the most memorable occasion of your life. We want to make your wedding day a day full of love, happiness and all the joy a couple beginning a new life together desire.

Follow these planning suggestions for making your day perfect.

A Year or More Before the Wedding

1. Select the wedding date and a backup date incase your wedding or reception site is unavailable for your first choice.
2. Next set a wedding budget using your finances as a guide set your priorities based on what is most important to you. Consult with your parents on what support they are willing to provide.
3. Decide if you want a formal or informal wedding
4. Write out your guest list – divide the list into three groups:
 - (a) those who are most likely to attend
 - (b) those who are most likely not to attend
 - (c) those that could go either way (put half in the mostly likely list and half in the most likely not list and that will give you a good estimate of your final guest list)
5. Choose and secure the wedding site.
6. Choose and book officiant
7. Choose and secure the reception location
8. Buy wedding ring
9. Choose a wedding planner or consultant (contact A Joy Event Planning, LLC)

Nine to Twelve Months Before the Wedding

1. Complete guest list including addresses and phone numbers
2. Determine color scheme
3. Finalize budget
4. Have engagement photos taken
5. Choose your wedding party –
BRIDE - attendants, including maid/matron of honor, bridesmaids, flower girl, ring bearer, gift table and guest book attendant
GROOM – best man, groomsmen and ushers (ideally one usher per 50 guests)
6. Reserve hotel rooms for out of town guests
7. Select a photographer
8. Select a videographer
9. Select reception band/musician/disc jockey
10. Select ceremony musician
11. Select and book caterer
12. Select linen supplier
13. Shop for and order wedding gown and attendants attire – schedule fittings and delivery date
14. Reserve a place and time for the rehearsal dinner
15. Check marriage license requirements for your state (Missouri and Kansas do not require blood test)

16. Begin planning honeymoon
17. Select florist and decorator

Four to Six Months Before the Wedding

1. Review guest list for any updates
2. Register for gifts
3. Help mothers coordinate and select their dresses
4. Order invitations, announcements, thank you notes and stationary
5. Select baker. Order wedding cake, groom's cake and mints
6. Order reception favors
7. Announce engagement in newspaper
8. Choose and book limousine
9. Send out save-the-date and reservation forms
10. Meet with catering manager and plan the menu (attend menu tasting)

Two to Three Months Before the Wedding

1. Choose readings and vows for ceremony
2. Meet with officiant
3. Mail invitations (6 to 8 weeks)
4. Write thank you notes as gifts arrive
5. Choose gifts for wedding party attendants
6. Design transportation inserts for out of town guest
7. Give ceremony musicians music request
8. Give reception musicians music request and introduction list
9. Schedule consultation and appointment with makeup artist, hair stylist, manicurist and pedicurist for yourself and if necessary, your attendance

One Month Before the Wedding

1. Pick up wedding rings
2. Print wedding programs and any other items being personalized
3. Have final fittings
4. Finalize menu cards
5. Arrange for wedding party to dress at the site of wedding 2 hours before the ceremony

Two Weeks Before the Wedding

1. Follow-up with guest who did not respond
2. Give final head count to catering manager, florist and linen company
3. Set seating arrangements
4. Write place cards
5. Meet with photographer and discuss specific photos you want taken
6. Meet with videographer and discuss specific people you want included on video
7. Meet with reception musician and give list of music to be played during special events, such as bouquet toss, garter tossing, first dance, father/daughter dance, cutting of cake, toast
8. Confirm rehearsal and rehearsal dinner dares and times with bridal party

9. Send change of address information to post office, if necessary
10. Make name change to proper documents including driver's license, credit cards, employee records, etc.

One Week Before the Wedding

1. Pick-up any documents required for honeymoon
2. Confirm all details with catering including final count
3. Pick-up wedding attire and make sure it fits
4. Pack suit case for honeymoon

Day Before the Wedding

1. Relax and get plenty of rest
2. Drink lots of water
3. Attend rehearsal
4. Present gifts to attendants

Day of the Wedding

1. Leave plenty of time for getting ready
2. Give best man officiant's fee in a sealed envelop
3. ENJOY THE DAY

After the Honeymoon

1. Write and mail thank you notes
2. Make arrangements to receive wedding photos
3. Have bridal gown professionally cleaned and preserved