

Bride's Checklist

The Bride and Groom

- Plan the wedding service with the officiant. If the bride and groom are going to write their own vows or are going to incorporate some personal touches into their service, they need to discuss them at this time with the officiant.
- Ask the minister for advice on wedding music, and get a copy of the wedding service to read together.
- Ask the minister if photographs may be taken during the ceremony and if a video or tape recording may be made of the wedding.
- Interview photographers and videographers, selecting the photographer that you feel will do the best job for the wedding experience you have in mind. Come to a clear understanding of how much photography will cost and how you want it handled.
- Prepare a guest list with both sets of parents.
- Send out invitations if bride's parents are not announcing the wedding.
- Register for gifts.

The Bride

- Chooses her attendants.
- Buys groom's wedding ring.
- Organizes decoration of church and reception with the help of a florist, wedding planner, her mother, the groom, sister or close friend.
- Chooses bridesmaids', flower girl's, ring bearer's and her own wedding attire. Selects a going-away outfit.
- Helps organize the reception with her mother or host.

The Bride's Parents

- Pay for wedding invitations.
- Pay for flowers in the church, and the music.
- Plan and pay for the reception, flowers, food, drink and wedding cake.
- Organize and pay for the car or cars taking the bride and her immediate family from the house to the church, and from the church to the reception.

The Bride's Mother

- Helps bride with all wedding arrangements, including consulting the groom's family about invitations, keeping a checklist of replies.
- Helps the bride choose her wedding dress as well as the attendants' outfits.
- Consults the groom's mother about her choice of wedding outfit when choosing her own wedding clothes.
- On the wedding day, leaves the house just before the bride, usually with the attendants. She is the last person to be seated at the ceremony and the first to be greeted in the receiving line at the reception.

The Bride's Father

- On the wedding day, is the last to leave the house and escorts the bride to church.
- Walks down the aisle with the bride on his right arm and, at the chancel steps, stands on her left.
- Takes his seat after the vows.

The Bridesmaids

- Follow the bride up the aisle, and following the ceremony helper with her train.
- Can be young teen-agers or pre-teens and are called junior bridesmaids.
- Adult bridesmaids should be unmarried. If they are married, they are called matrons of honor.

The Maid of Honor

- Waits at the back of the church for the bride's arrival and looks after younger attendants.
- Helps the bride with her train and holds her bouquet during the ceremony, returning it to her in the vestry.
- Helps the bride to change after the reception and takes charge of the wedding dress following the reception.

The Bride's Family Pays For:

- Press announcements
- Bride's dress
- Flowers for the church and reception
- Photographer's fees
- Transportation
- Reception costs
- Wedding stationery
- Bridesmaids' gifts

