

## **Countdown to your wedding**

**The best advice on planning is to start early.**

### **18-12 months before**

- \*Using a wedding planner? Hire one now to be sure you have the time you need.
- \*Talk with your fiancé and all parents about ideas: discuss budget, style and dates.
- \* Set a wedding date and time.
- \*Discuss and decide who will officiate at your ceremony.
- \*Choose your attendants.
- \* Start shopping for your dress, bridesmaids' dresses and men's formal wear.
- \*Investigate caterers, photographers, musicians, florists, bakers and videographers; make appointments to see their work – and sample the cakes!

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### **10-8 months before**

- \*Visit your clergy member or officiant with your fiancé (If having a religious ceremony, some faiths require premarital courses).
- \*Set up a bridal registry.
- \*Firm up your guest list; have your fiancé help you make final decisions.
- \*Choose and purchase your wedding dress.
- \*Make sure the bridesmaids have purchased their dresses.
- \*Make sure other attendants have purchased their formal wear or reserved rentals.
- \*Set up hotel reservations for out-of-town guests.
- \*Choose your photographer, videographer, florist, musicians and baker. Set up contracts with all professionals you choose.
- \*Order your wedding cake.

### **4-6 months before**

- \*Shop for and choose your wedding rings.
- \*Send your engagement announcement to the newspaper and other media.
- \*If you are renting accessories (balloons, doves, etc.), reserve them.
- \*Decide on the details -- your menu, floral bouquets, music, etc.
- \*Reserve your transportation or lay a plan with family and friends.
- \*Select and order your invitations and announcements as well as thank you notes.
- \*Make an appointment for your first dress fitting.
- \*Ask the mothers to select their dresses.
- \*Make reservations for your honeymoon. Apply for passports if you'll need them.
- \*Book a hotel for your wedding night.

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### **2 months before**

- \*Meet with your clergy member or officiant to discuss ceremony details.
- \*Schedule your rehearsal and your rehearsal dinner.
- \*Purchase the groom's tuxedo or make arrangements for rental.
- \*Mail your invitations. (Take one to the post office to be weighed so you know the postage is right.)

- \*Take care of change of name forms for driver's license, social security, credit cards, etc. (if changing your name)
- \*Keep up with thank-you notes.
- \*Send your announcement to the newspapers.

#### **4-6 weeks before**

- \*Obtain your marriage license (Pennsylvania does not require a blood test; there is a three-day waiting period for your license and it is valid for only 60 days. Check with your local county for any updates on the law).
- \*Pick up your rings.
- \*Have your final dress fitting.
- \*Schedule your hairstylist for your wedding day.
- \*Confirm all vendor details and delivery times.

#### **1 week before**

- \*Give final guest count to the caterer.
- \*Reconfirm honeymoon reservations.
- \*Pick up your dress a few days before the wedding.
- \*Break in your shoes; scuff them on the bottom so you don't slip.
- \*Delegate "day of" responsibilities to family and friends.

#### **Your wedding day**

- \*Have your hair styled and your nails done in the morning.
- \*Spend an hour doing yoga or meditation.
- \*Take a deep breath, relax and enjoy your day to the fullest!