

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Even with the modification of traditions, the majority of financial obligations are still divided according to tradition.

Who will pay for all of this? That's the question facing every couple and their families immediately after wedding plans are announced.

Traditions of the past dictated that the primary financial burden be borne by the bride's family. However, today's rules are more relaxed; and most brides and grooms and their respective families take a practical approach, considering who is most able, most willing and the most logical to pay the various expenses for this mutual celebration.

Begin with a realistic budget and communicate openly to your families the type of celebration you would like. It's important not to expect a more expensive wedding than you and your families can sensibly afford. Be courteous, and grateful, remembering they are not "obligated" to finance your wedding. However, most parents are happily anticipating the celebration and expect to pay for a significant portion of it.

The following is a summary of the traditional division of financial responsibilities.

bride

- Personal stationery
- Groom's wedding ring
- Wedding gift for the groom
- Gifts for attendants
- Attendants dresses (optional)
- Lodging for out-of-town attendants
- Physical examination
- Bridesmaid's Luncheon
- Gifts for parents (optional)

bride's family

- First engagement party (optional)
- Wedding gift for newlyweds
- Entire reception
- Rental of sanctuary or chapel
- Bride's wedding attire and trousseau
- Parents' wedding attire
- Invitations, announcements, personal stationery, thank-you notes, postage
- Wedding programs
- Engagement / wedding photographs
- Musicians/ Vocalists
- Videographer
- Aisle carpets and/or canopy
- Bridesmaids' bouquets
- Flowers for church
- Flowers for reception
- Transportation for bridal party to ceremony and reception
- Flowers for flower girl
- Security and insurance for gifts
- Welcome buffet or cocktail party for out-of-town guests (optional)

bride's attendants

- Bridal shower
- Bridesmaid's dress, shoes & hosiery
- Lodging

groom

- Bride's rings
- Honeymoon
- Transportation to airport
- Wedding gift for bride
- Bridal bouquet/going away corsage
- Boutonnieres for all men in wedding party
- Mother's corsage
- Physical examination
- Gifts for best man, groomsmen and ushers
- Groomsmen's attire (optional)
- Gloves, ties or ascots for men in wedding party (optional)
- Lodging for out-of-town attendants
- Marriage license
- Fee for officiant
- Gift for parents (optional)

groom's family

- Engagement Party (following party given by bride's parents)
- Travel expenses and hotel bills
- Groom's personal stationery, thank you notes
- Groom's wedding attire
- Parents' wedding attire
- Rehearsal dinner
- Wedding gift for the newlyweds
- Shipment of wedding gifts to the couple's new home
- Welcome buffet or cocktail party for out-of-town guests (optional)

groom's attendants

- Bachelor party
- Formalwear rental
- Lodging