

Who Pays for What?

The unspoken question! This is for those who are interested in the traditional list of what is expected of those planning a wedding. We know that today's world is dramatically changed from when these traditions were established, so Wedding Ideas would just like to emphasize that when it comes to making these financial decisions, it is imperative that there is communication with all involved. Make sure you know everyone's expectations early in the process - then there can be no surprises or hurt feelings after all the festivities are over!

Service	Bride and/or her Family	Groom and/or his Family	Attendants	Options to Share
Rings	The groom's ring.	The bride's engagement ring and wedding ring.		Either family may offer heirloom rings.
Prewedding Parties	May host an engagement party. The bride hosts a bridesmaids' luncheon.	May host an engagement party following the bride's family's party. They also provide the rehearsal dinner.	Bridal Shower, Girls night out Bachelor Party May host an engagement party.	The bride's family may host the rehearsal dinner. Out-of-towners' brunch or pool party, etc. may be co-hosted.
Stationery	Invitations, announcements, save the date, newsletters, wedding programs and thank you notes.	Groom's thank you notes and personal stationery.	May assist with assembling and addressing invitations.	Each family may share in addressing the invitations.
Clothes	The brides dress, veil and accessories; her mother's dress and father's formalwear. The bride's trousseau.	The groom's formalwear, his mother's dress and father's attire.	Their dresses and formalwear for the wedding.	The bride's family may purchase the attendant's dresses and the groom's family may pay for the usher's formalwear.
Flowers	Floral for the church and reception, bouquets for the bridesmaids and flower girls.	Bride's bouquets and going away corsage. Corsages for mothers and grandmothers and the men's boutonnières.	May provide bubbles, packets of rice or birdseed for guests to toss.	Bride's family may buy bouquets and corsages.
Ceremony	Church fees, music fees and the rental of aisle carpet and marquee.	Marriage license and judge or clergy member's fee.		The couple may cover all ceremony fees.
Photography/Videography	Engagement and Wedding photos and video.		Attendants may take behind-the-scene shots and candid shots.	One family may pay for the videography and the other for the photography.
Transportation/Lodging	Transportation of the bridal party to the ceremony and reception sites.	Limo to the airport. The complete honeymoon.	Attendants who live in the area may offer out-of-town attendants a place to stay	Either family may pay for lodging, transportation, baby-sitters and meals for out-of-town guests.
Reception/Honeymoon	All professional services (food, drinks, decorations, entertainment, etc.).			The groom's family may offer to share in the reception's cost (hors d'oeuvres, liquor, etc.).
Gifts	The bride buys a gift for the groom and her attendants.	The groom buys a gift for the bride and his attendants.		The couple may buy thank you gifts for friends and family who helped plan their wedding.