

# LEGAL GUIDANCE FOR *Marriage*



## **Congratulations!**

Planning a wedding is an exciting time for engaged couples, filled with joy, anticipation, and dreams of a beautiful future together. While the focus is often on selecting venues, floral arrangements, and guest lists, it is equally essential for couples to consider the legal aspects of their union. Engaging a lawyer's assistance can provide couples with valuable guidance in safeguarding their wedding and marriage.

## **Pre-Wedding Legal Consultation:**

Before embarking on the journey of marriage, it is wise for engaged couples to seek legal advice tailored to their specific circumstances. A lawyer experienced in family law can help navigate the complexities of prenuptial agreements. This document outlines the division of assets, property rights, and potential spousal support in the event of a divorce. Although prenuptial agreements may not seem romantic, they can provide clarity and financial security for both parties, especially if either individual has considerable assets, owns a business, or has children from a previous relationship.

## **Contract Review and Vendor Agreements:**

The wedding planning process involves numerous contracts with vendors, such as caterers, photographers, musicians, and event planners. Engaged couples can have a lawyer review these contracts, ensuring their interests are protected. By carefully examining the terms and conditions, they can identify potential pitfalls, hidden fees, or clauses that may cause inconveniences or legal disputes.



## **Name Change and Document Preparation:**

Thinking about changing your name? A lawyer can streamline the process of changing names on legal documents such as identification cards, passports, driver's licenses, and bank accounts. (For a list of agencies to notify, visit [usa.gov](https://www.usa.gov).) By providing legal guidance, lawyers can help avoid potential bureaucratic hurdles, ensuring a smooth transition and minimizing potential delays or complications.

## **Post-Wedding Legal Considerations:**

Once the vows are exchanged, couples should still be mindful of legal matters that arise after the wedding. Lawyers can assist in updating wills, estate planning, and beneficiary designations, ensuring that each spouse's wishes are legally documented and protected. In the event of unforeseen circumstances or changes in the couple's situation, such as the birth of a child or the acquisition of new assets, legal professionals can help revise legal documents accordingly.

## **Divorce and Separation:**

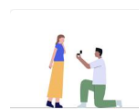
While no couple wishes to consider the possibility of divorce or separation, it is essential to be prepared for any eventuality. If the relationship deteriorates irreparably, a lawyer experienced in family law can guide couples through this difficult process, ensuring fair and equitable distribution of assets and custody rights if children are involved. Legal counsel can help protect each party's rights and interests while minimizing conflicts.

## **Conclusion:**

If you are enrolled in LegalShield, engaged, or planning your wedding, contact your LegalShield provider lawyer, who can provide experienced advice. If you are not enrolled in LegalShield, consider signing up during your employer's next open enrollment period.

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**LegalShield can help ensure your dream wedding. [See how.](#)**



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