

Marriage

Planning for a pre-nuptial agreement

It may feel rather business-like to discuss your financial arrangements before getting married, but it's the best time to decide whether a pre-nuptial agreement is right for you. Clarity upfront will help you both during your marriage or if the marriage breaks down. Here's a few pointers...



Points to consider

1

Don't shy away from talking about it

It may be uncomfortable to do so but talk about the finances you each have (or don't have). The financial impacts on a new relationship can be long term and easily affect emotions for both of you.

2

Do it before you get married

Give yourself sufficient time to review your agreement. Ideally it should be completed at least 28 days before your wedding, but earlier is better. Make sure, too, that your partner has independent legal advice.

3

Consider these financial circumstances

Have you been married before? Have you received gifts or an inheritance? What are your assets? Are there any you want to protect and keep out of the marriage by ring-fencing them? Do you own a business?

4

Do you have dependent children from a previous relationship?

You'll need to consider them. Do you plan to have children in the future? An up-to-date agreement will help ensure that all children are provided for. Make sure you have a proper will, too.

5

Make your agreement reasonable and enforceable

You should be aiming for a contract that can be implemented legally. It should give both of you the security and knowledge of what you'll get if the marriage, sadly, comes to an end.

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