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Prenup Planning Checklist

The smart, loving way to start your marriage.

A prenup isn't just paperwork - it's a smart conversation about your future.
This step-by-step guide will walk you through the entire process, from first mention to final signature.
Calm, clear, and designed to protect you both.



STEP 1: Bring It Up Without Stress

- ☐ Try something like:
"Hey, I've been thinking... what do you think about prenups?"
- ☐ Pick a chill time, not when they're tired or stressed - maybe after dinner or during a relaxed weekend.
- ☐ Keep it casual and low-pressure - don't turn it into a big serious talk right away.
- ☐ Don't push if they shut down or get annoyed - drop it for a bit and bring it up again later.
- ☐ Let them know it's about protecting both of you, not about mistrust or drama.



STEP 2: Get Your Financial Picture Together (And Tell Your Partner to Do So Too!)

- ☐ List your assets (home, savings, business, valuables)
- ☐ List your debts (student loans, credit cards, family loans)
- ☐ Know your income and future earning potential
- ☐ Think ahead: Will you be receiving gifts or an inheritance?



STEP 3: Think Through the Big Questions

- ☐ Do you want to keep income or property separate?
- ☐ Will debt stay with the person who brought it in?
- ☐ Should either of you waive spousal support?
- ☐ How will you handle shared purchases (home, car)?
- ☐ What happens if one of you pauses your career for kids?



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STEP 4: Talk to a Lawyer Before Negotiating With Your Partner

- ☐ Schedule a consultation before raising specifics with your partner
- ☐ Learn what your state law says about marriage, property, and support
- ☐ Understand your rights, responsibilities, and options - so you speak from facts, not fear
- ☐ Get clear on what you want from a prenup before the conversation even starts



STEP 5: Open the Conversation Gently

- ☐ Choose a calm, low-stress moment - not during a wedding meltdown
- ☐ Use language like:
"I learned a lot from a lawyer about what marriage means legally. I think we should talk about it too."
- ☐ Emphasize partnership and planning, not mistrust



STEP 6: The Legal Process

- ☐ One of you hires a lawyer to draft the prenup
- ☐ The other hires a lawyer to review it (required!)
- ☐ Negotiate the agreement by going back and forth with the attorneys' involvement
- ☐ Finalize and sign well in advance of your wedding
- ☐ Keep a signed copy in your records, and revisit if your lives change

Ready for the Next Step?

A prenup is more than just a document - it's a legal agreement that should reflect your values, your goals, and your future together. Once you've reviewed this checklist, it's time to speak with an attorney who can guide you through the process with clarity and care. Schedule a consultation with Bridelawyer to get personalized legal guidance built around your life.

Call 201.330.0061

Or visit www.bridelawyer.com to learn more.