

Wedding Papers &

The big announcement! Here's how to get your big news in the papers and get that all-important document — your marriage license!



Placing wedding and engagement announcements is a piece of cake. Simply contact the paper(s) of your choice and request an announcement form, e-mail them, fill it out online, or stop by in person. Complete the form and return it with a photograph (some papers print the bride's picture only). Most newspapers prefer black-and-white glossies or high-resolution photos e-mailed to them.

Engagement announcements are usually short, listing only the names of the prospective bride and groom, their parents' names and the wedding date. Pictures are sometimes published with engagement announcements.

Wedding announcements go into more detail, featuring the couple's names, parents' names and their city and state if they're from out of town. Also listed are the church, wedding date and members of the wedding party. A photograph may be included at this time.

Information deadlines vary by publication. Engagement information may be required up to seven weeks in advance, while wedding announcements might be accepted up to a month or two after the celebration. The dailies have more rigid deadlines. Contact each newspaper for specific deadlines.

THE MARRIAGE LICENSE: YOU CAN'T BE WED WITHOUT IT!

The hard part is almost over — the bridal gown has been bought, the invitations are in the mail, and the caterer is

cooking. Getting your marriage license is one of the last tasks before you can say, "I do."

The procedure for obtaining your license is basically the same all over Texas. Together, the prospective bride and groom must visit the office of the county clerk.

Bring a valid form of identification — a driver's license, certified copy of your original birth certificate, U.S. passport, or military ID. Also be sure to bring your Social Security Card. Cost for the license — \$71, cash. They don't take checks. However, there is a new premarital education program sponsored by the state of Texas called "Together in Texas" that is only \$50. Take the class, and receive a \$80 discount on your marriage license. Visit www.BeTheChampion.org, call 214.426.0900, or e-mail parer@anthemstrongfamilies.com for more information.

There's one important detail you must not forget: a 72-hour waiting period is required after the license is issued. Your license is good 30 days from that date. Good news — blood tests are not required in the tri-county area.

Most county clerks' offices are open Monday through Friday. In downtown Dallas, hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The other Dallas, Collin and Tarrant County offices are open longer, until 4:30 p.m. Some sub-courts in Tarrant County may close for lunch. Call ahead to make sure they're open before you make the trip. •

Party Time! &

Finally! The details have all been taken care of. Now, it's time to relax and have some fun. Bachelor and bachelorette parties are designed to send off the bride and groom into their new lives with one last outing. Get your wedding party to plan the time of your life with creative outings and entertainment.

Event planners and wedding coordinators will be a big help in generating ideas, making contacts and setting up reservations for those trendy dinner and entertainment spots for the bachelor and bachelorette parties. Ask them to contact your maid of honor and best man to coordinate your parties. Then sit back and be surprised.

A day at the races or attending a professional football, basketball or baseball game is a natural for a men's outing. If the man in your life is more of a doer than a watcher, a day at the golf course might be in order. Friends might meet for breakfast, head for the golf course, and enjoy lunch and a party at the "19th" hole. They might arrange for the golf pro to play with them, helping everyone with their game. This could tie in with the ladies spending an afternoon of pampering at a sauna or salon following their own golf game, or on the tennis court.

A more mature groom might enjoy a gentlemen's night at a wonderful restaurant. A "tasting" of scotch, wines, or cordials might be arranged with the maitre d'. Some restaurants have a private room, allowing for cigars, pre-selected by the groom for each of his guests. Perhaps friends and other members of the wedding party might meet to finish the evening with dancing and a nightcap.

For the ultimate "bachelor" get-together, a weekend spent at a cabin for fishing, card playing, and reminiscing about the "good" college days" is hard to beat. The boys might have so much fun that it could become the traditional party each year, even after everyone is married!

An outing (prearranged with instruction) at a skeet range provides an opportunity for camaraderie and, later, greatly exaggerated stories of shooting prowess, even if no one has ever shot before.

If the bachelor party takes place the day before the wedding, it might start with a trip to the tuxedo shop where any last-minute alterations could be made while there's still time before the big day. After ensuring their fit, the men are off to the golf course while the store manager arranges for the tuxedos to be delivered directly to the hotel or the groom's home.

Your bridesmaids will enjoy a day at the spa for some long-overdue pampering. Cap it off with a light lunch or early dinner at your favorite food spot.

For the more active ladies, plan a golf outing, a day of shopping at an outlet mall, or tickets to a live theatre show or comedy club. Make it extra special by hiring a limousine to deliver your party in a safe manner.

The worst time for a bachelor or bache-



lorette party is the night before the wedding. Everyone needs to be at their best for the big day, without worrying about headaches, lack of sleep or a queasy stomach. Plan the parties several days or weeks ahead. If all the participants live in the same city, the weekend before is a perfect time. If travel plans preclude "getting that old gang together" until the day before, all the more reason for an afternoon outing that leaves everyone ready for the rehearsal and dinner to follow.

The bachelor/bachelorette party has long been regarded as the last great fling before the fun is over forever. Today's couples don't regard marriage and family as the end of freedom, but the beginning of a relationship that is its own fulfillment. Relationships of commitment change one's perspective on many facets of life. A bachelor or bachelorette party that everyone feels comfortable discussing and participating in, is a part of that commitment.

Throughout marriage there will be many times that couples see things differently—even vehemently differently. Use this as an opportunity to find a compromise that is mutually acceptable and that sets a pattern for discussion instead of arguing. •



All invitations by Pear Tree Greetings

JULIANNE & BENJAMIN
 INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THEIR WEDDING
 OCTOBER 16, 2014 AT 5:30 PM
 COMMANDER'S MANSION
 WATERTOWN | MASSACHUSETTES
DINNER & DANCING
 RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY
 COMMANDER'S MANSION
 BLACK TIE

County Clerks' Offices

COLLIN COUNTY MCKINNEY

COLLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
 200 SOUTH McDONALD STREET, #120
 972.424.1460 x 4185

PLANO

COLLIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
 900 EAST PARK, SUITE 140
 PLANO, TEXAS 75074
 972.424.1460 x 3025

DALLAS COUNTY

DOWNTOWN DALLAS

RECORDS BUILDING
 509 MAIN STREET, SUITE 120
 214.653.7559

EAST DALLAS

EAST DALLAS GOVERNMENT CENTER
 3443 ST. FRANCIS AVENUE
 214.321.3182

NORTH DALLAS

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
 10056 MARSH LANE, SUITE 137
 214.904.3032

DENTON COUNTY

1029 W. ROSEMEADE PKWY.
 CARROLLTON, TX 75007-6251
 972.434.7170

1400 FM 424

CROSS ROADS, TX 76227-7284
 940.349.4400

PARKER COUNTY

1112 SANTA FE DRIVE
 WEATHERFORD, TX 76086
 817.594.7461

ROCKWALL COUNTY

1101 RIDGE ROAD
 ROCKWALL, TX 75087
 972.722.1855

TARRANT COUNTY

ARLINGTON

724 EAST BORDER
 817.548.3928

DOWNTOWN FORT WORTH

100 WEST WEATHERFORD, ROOM 180
 817.884.1195

HURST

645 GRAPEVINE HIGHWAY
 817.581.3625