



Larkin Baptist Church was filled with family and friends for Alexis and Logan's special day.

Wedding planning checklist

A simple wedding planning checklist breaks your event into manageable, stress-free stages. It covers five main phases: establishing a budget and guest list, booking core vendors, finalizing details, obtaining the marriage license, and preparing for the wedding day itself.

Of course there are other decisions to be made, such as who will be in the wedding party and who will officiate, but this is a broad overview.

Phase 1: The Foundations (10–12 months out)

Determine the budget: Figure out who is contributing and set a total financial limit.

Draft the guest list: This will determine

the size and location of your venue.

Hire a planner (optional): If you need professional guidance, look in a full-service or month-of coordinator.

Book the venue: Secure both your ceremony and reception locations.

Phase 2: The Core Team (6–9 months out)

Book vendors: Secure essential professionals like your caterer, photographer, and videographer.

Wedding attire: Shop for your dress, suit, and any necessary alterations (allow up to 2–3 months for alterations).

Book entertainment: Hire your ceremony musicians and reception DJ or band.

Wedding registry: Create your gift registry to share with guests.

Phase 3: The Details (3–5 months out)

Send invitations: Mail your official wedding invitations (aim for 6–8 weeks prior).

Order rings: Purchase your wedding bands.

Plan accommodations: Reserve a hotel block for out-of-town guests.

Order the cake: Schedule tastings and select your baker.

Phase 4: Finalizing (1–2 months out)

Get your marriage license: Research your local county clerk requirements to ensure it is valid for your wedding date.

Finalize the headcount: Collect RSVPs and provide final numbers to your caterer

and venue.

Create a seating chart: Arrange your guests for the reception tables.

Write vows: Finalize your personal vows for the ceremony.

Day-of timeline: Draft a schedule of the day's events to share with your vendors and wedding party.

Phase 5: The Final Week (1–2 weeks out)

Pick up attire: Collect your tailored wedding dress and suit.

Confirm vendors: Check in with all vendors regarding arrival times and final payments.

Pack: Gather all your accessories, rings, and honeymoon luggage.