

Over 400 Local Resources for Planning Your Dream Wedding

ARIZONA BRIDE

400+
LOCAL
RESOURCES

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BEAUTIFUL
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WEDDINGS



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a preup?*
(Pg. 28)

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The Nuts and Bolts of Nuptials

WEDDING PLANNING ISN'T JUST ABOUT CAKES AND FLOWERS—DON'T FORGET THE PAPERWORK.

BELOVED FIANCÉ? CHECK. PERFECT WEDDING DRESS? CHECK. Legal documents, marriage license, and the like? Well ... maybe not yet. Such formalities might not be as fun as planning the actual wedding; nonetheless, they're an absolute necessity before your perfect union can become official. Here's our go-to-guide for all things paperwork (and we aren't talking about your pretty invitations).

spread the word Announcing your engagement

You've got the ring, you've set the date—now let everyone know about it! Not only will your engagement announcement tell the world your good news, but it can be saved as a fond memento for years to come. The following publications can help you spread the word.

PUBLICATION	CONTACT	DEADLINE	COST	DETAILS
ARIZONA REPUBLIC (PHOENIX)	Send photos (.jpg) and text to celebrations@arizonarepublic.com.	Tuesday at noon for publication the following Wednesday.	\$33 to \$100, depending on amount of text and photos.	Call 602.444.8804 to request a form that will guide you through the basic information, such as names, occupations, and wedding date and location.
AZ DAILY STAR (TUCSON)	Download form at tucson.com/celebrations and send it to celebrations@tucson.com or fax it to 520.573.4294. Attach photos as .jpg.	Tuesdays, at least three weeks before publish date.	Starting at \$50 to more than \$1,000 for a full page.	The editors cannot guarantee that your announcement will be in the paper on a specific date but will try to meet that goal.
AZ DAILY SUN (FLAGSTAFF)	928.774.4545 azdailysun.com	First come, first serve.	Free, including a photo.	Because the service is complimentary, there is no guarantee which week your announcement will run. All announcements appear in the Sunday "Neighbors" section.

making it legal Getting a marriage license

Arizona law makes it relatively easy to obtain a marriage license. While many states have a waiting period, here it's possible to get a license and get married the same day. No blood test is necessary and most counties just need a driver's license and Social Security number from each applicant. It costs \$72; both bride and groom must be present when applying.

<p>MARICOPA COUNTY DOWNTOWN: 601 W. Jackson St., Phoenix NORTHEAST: 18380 N. 40th St., Ste. 120, Phoenix NORTHWEST: 14264 W. Tierra Buena Ln., Surprise SOUTHEAST: 222 E. Javelina, Mesa 602.506.3360; clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov</p>	<p>COCONINO COUNTY Clerk of Court Office 200 N. San Francisco St., Flagstaff 928.679.7600; coconino.az.gov (cash only)</p>	<p>PIMA COUNTY Pima County Superior Courts 110 W. Congress St., Tucson 520.740.3200; cosc.pima.gov</p>
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Changing your name

The old adage, “the more things change, the more they stay the same” can be applied to recent trends in name-changing. While a large percentage of women kept their own last names or hyphenated their names in recent decades, tradition has once again come back to life, with nearly 88 percent of brides taking their husbands’ last name as their own. Why this return to tradition?

Before Nina Ricci married Ryan Joki in the summer of 2007, she spent months going back and forth, debating whether to take his name. By the time the wedding came around, she knew she wanted to become Nina Joki. “I did have second thoughts about it. You get really used to your name—it becomes your identity. Once you realize that it is not your quasi-cool Italian last name that defines you, it is much easier to move on,” the former Miss Ricci laughs.

She felt their names would not have sounded good hyphenated (Ricci-Joki), and she didn’t like the idea of having separate last names. “In the end I am very glad that I changed my name. I knew that it was a really big deal to my husband, and I was still very young—just out of college—and did not have professional accomplishments attached to my name yet. Having the same last name as him feels like another bond that we share.”

oh, the possibilities

ANNE MARIE JOHNSON *marries* RYAN ANDREWS

Anne Marie Johnson (*she keeps her name*)

Anne Marie Johnson (*he takes her name*)

Anne Marie Andrews (*she takes his name*)

Anne Marie Johnson-Andrews (*hyphenated, her name first*)

Anne Marie Andrews-Johnson (*hyphenated, his name first*)

Anne Johnson Andrews (*her last name becomes her middle name*)

Anne Andrews Johnson (*his last name becomes her middle name*)

Anne Marie Johndrews (*combined last names*)

Notifying the officials

SOCIAL SECURITY

Visiting the Social Security office is the first step to changing your last name. Bring your marriage license plus photo identification showing your old name, along with the completed application, which you can find at socialsecurity.gov. Attend to this before going to other venues such as the DMV and your banks. It can take up to two days for the information to process so keep that in mind before heading to other institutions.

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Once you’ve registered your name change at the Social Security office, the Department of Motor Vehicles is the next stop. Make sure to bring identification

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showing both your previous and new names, as well as an original copy of your marriage license. By law, this is supposed to be done within 10 days of the name change.

VOTER REGISTRATION

In Arizona, you can also update your voter registration with your new name while at the DMV, which makes the whole process a bit easier and less time-consuming.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Once you've changed your name at the Social Security office and the DMV, there are a slew of other institutions to notify: Banks, credit card accounts, passport office, insurance companies, and doctor's offices all need to be informed. Often-overlooked places also include health club memberships, frequent flyer programs, video store memberships, and the like.

Pre-nuptial agreements

Sometimes "Think with your head, not just your heart" can be practical advice when making a life change as major as marriage. Choosing a pre-nuptial agreement will ensure that each individual's assets remain protected in the event that the marriage does not work out. While it may feel awkward to discuss this with your future husband, there are certain situations in which it is logical (and wise) to finalize an agreement before uniting your lives.

"The reasons couples find pre-nuptial agreements effective include making provisions for children of prior marriages; identifying how finances will be managed during the marriage; classifying property as community or sole and separate; and protecting one another from liabilities," says Elizabeth Winter, an attorney and mediator in Scottsdale. "In addition, the process itself can empower couples to engage in constructive communication regarding financial matters. These are excellent skill sets for success in marital relations."

Winter recommends taking care of these legalities well before the wedding so you can fully enjoy the fun aspects of wedding planning. *