



FAIRY GODMOTHER

A WEDDING AND EVENT PLANNING COMPANY

■ MONTH 

You did it! I am so happy for you.

It is countdown time.

There are a few things I wanted to go
over with you before your big day.

Congratulations!

Magically,

Your Fairy Godmother



MARRIAGE LICENSE *Information*

To marry in California, the couple must first obtain a marriage license from the County Clerk's office. You do not need to be a U.S. citizen or California resident to apply for a marriage license.

If you are 17 years of age or younger, you must call the Kern County Family Court Services at (661) 868-5393 before you can purchase a marriage license.

There are two common types of marriage licenses available in the State of California: a Public License and a Confidential License.

See the chart below for specifics on each type.

PUBLIC LICENSE	CONFIDENTIAL LICENSE
Public Record, available at the Kern County Recorder's Office, approximately two weeks after the ceremony	Available ONLY to the couple named on the license (except by order of the Superior Court) at the Kern County Clerk's Office
The license can be used anywhere in the State of California	The license can be used anywhere in the State of California
Must have at least one witness at your ceremony (no age requirement but must be old enough to know they are witnessing a marriage AND be able to sign their name within the box)	No witnesses are required at the ceremony AND no witnesses sign on the marriage license
Must be 18 years of age or older, or, if under 18, must have written consent from at least one parent AND present a certified copy of the court order granting permission to marry. Emancipated minors are NOT exempt from this process.	Must be 18 years of age or older. Minors may NOT purchase a confidential marriage license
	Must sign an oath that you have been living together as spouses
The current fee is \$101	The current fee is \$123

NOTE: Marriage Licenses are valid for 90 days from the date of issuance. If you do not get married within 90 days, the license will be invalid AND you must re-apply and purchase a new license.

To obtain a marriage license, both parties must meet the below requirements.

Both parties must appear together at:

Kern County Administrative Building

1115 Truxtun Avenue, First Floor

Bakersfield, CA 93301

(661) 868-3743

We accept walk-ins only. Our business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. When you arrive at the lobby, you will begin the application on a computer.

Each person, 18 years or older, must present valid, government-issued picture identification. To expedite the identification process, it is highly recommended (not mandatory) that both parties bring a copy of their birth certificate.

If either party has been granted a divorce or filed a Termination of Domestic Partnership within the last 90 days, an endorsed copy of the FINAL divorce decree or termination documents must be presented when applying for your license.

Appointments are scheduled for Mondays and Tuesdays at 12:00 pm, 12:20 pm, or 12:40 pm. The fee must be paid the day of the appointment by money order or cashier's check, made payable to Kern County Clerk. Please bring the completed marriage license application on the day of your appointment. Please click [here](#) for the marriage license application.

REHEARSAL

Rehearsal Day is an exciting and fun day! Ask your guest to arrive 30 minutes early. If your rehearsal starts at 400, ask your guests to arrive at 3:30. It will give you 20–30 minutes time to reconnect with family and friends and it will give time for guests that might be late.

Only invite the wedding party to the rehearsal.

I will arrive about 10 minutes before rehearsal start time. Rehearsal will take about 30 minutes and we will start right on time!





FLAT-LAY FOR THE *Groom*

Remember, if you and your groom would like a flat-lay of his things, a lot of the same items apply! Some others you may consider for your guy are:

- His shoes
- Dress socks
- Tie
- Boutonniere
- Any custom gift such as cufflinks, a watch, bourbon, etc.



FLAT-LAY Photos

Flat-lays are a nice way to bring together both your style as well as your legacy, all in one spot as a keepsake that lasts beyond your wedding day. Flat-lay photos go nicely to help define the mood and to help set the story of your wedding day and what led up to who you and your fiancé are, and why that's worth communicating to your children one day.

What Should I Include in My Flat-Lay?

Now, on to the "What?!" We suggest including whatever might be included in the old saying, **"Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, and Something Blue"**.

Of course, you don't have to include something blue, but the main point stands: include things that are meaningful and speak to your relationship with your history, your relationships with your spouse, family, friends, and your future.

Some good examples include the following:

Your invitation suite (we recommend bringing at least two envelopes for styling purposes)

- Be sure to store any bendable materials in between cardboard or some way that prevents bending! That way it actually "lays flat" :)

Save the Dates

- A sentimental ring box
- If you don't have a ring box that you're in love with, ask your photographer! They might have something like a Mrs. Box you can use!

Rings

- If you want to have all your rings photographed, make sure that you have both your and your fiancé's ring with you!





Jewelry

- Your earrings, necklace, etc.
- This includes heirloom jewelry!
- Decorations and other items you're using during your wedding day
- Your menu, program, and small items that will be used to decorate the reception area
- Your veil
- Your shoes
- Your bouquet
- Your perfume
- Your Groom's boutonniere
- Floral trimmings
- Ask the florist for these! They usually have some leftover trimmings that your photographer can use to style with.

Any other sentimental items

We've seen items such as gifts to your bridesmaids/groomsmen, old pocket watches, sentimental handkerchiefs, heirloom saucers and mugs, and more! Feel free to be creative!

PRO *Tipping* CHEAT SHEET

Tipping is to be considered in a case-by-case scenario. Tip vendors who offer exceptional service; thank-you notes are always appreciated. For a breakdown of what's customary for each vendor, read on.

Wedding Hair Stylist and Makeup Artist

This is one area where a gratuity is definitely expected. Tip between 15 – 20 percent just as you would in a hair salon, and consider giving a little extra if there's a crisis like one of your bridesmaids has a meltdown over her up-do and it requires a redo at the last minute.

The standard: 15 – 25 percent, depending upon the quality of service

Wedding Ceremony Officiate

If your officiate is affiliated with a church or synagogue, you're often expected to make a donation to that institution. If you're a member you'll probably want to give a larger amount than if you're not. However, if you're getting married there and they're charging you to use the space, feel free to give a smaller amount. If you're using a nondenominational officiant, no tip is required because they will charge you for your time.

The standard: Donate \$100+ to the church or synagogue, or, for a nondenominational officiant, an optional tip of \$50 – \$100

Wedding Ceremony Musicians

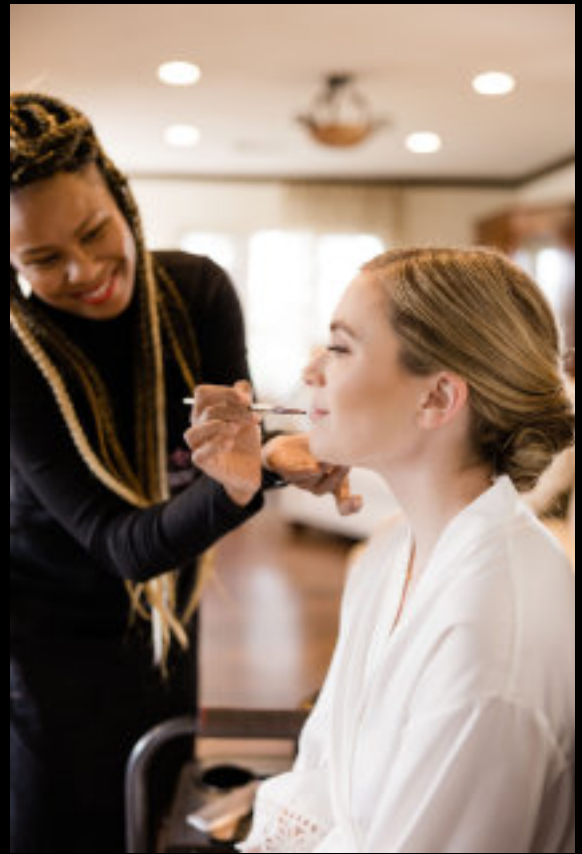
If you worked with a mini orchestra to come up with the perfect score for your service (and they pulled it off flawlessly), consider showing some monetary thanks for their talent. However, you probably don't have to tip the solo church organist who was required to play.

The standard: \$15 – \$20 per musician

Wedding Planner

Wedding planners won't likely expect anything; however, if yours did a great job you can always offer a token of your appreciation. Approximately 75 percent of couples do tip their planners.

The standard: Up to \$300, or a nice gift





Wedding Photographer/Videographer

You're not expected to give your shutterbugs any dough beyond their normal fees. Yet if the wedding photographer or videographer doesn't own the studio, consider tipping each person (or give a certain amount with a thank-you note to disperse to staff).

The standard: \$50 — \$200 per vendor

Wedding Reception Staff

This type of staff includes the on-site coordinator, maître d', and banquet manager. A service charge (typically 2 percent) is almost always built into the food and drink fee, so check your contract. If the gratuity is not included, the tip is as follows.

The standard: 15 — 20 percent of the food and drink fee (based on labor, not the cost), or \$200 — \$300 for the maître d'.

When to Tip: If it's covered in the contract, the final bill is typically due before the reception. Otherwise, have the father of the bride or best man hand the envelope to the maître d' at the end of the reception since you will need to know the final tab to calculate the percentage.

Wedding Reception Band or DJ

Whether you hire a 12-piece swing band or groove to a DJ, tipping musicians is completely optional. (Depending on the quality of the job and how willing they were to follow your ideal playlist!) And don't forget about any sound technicians they bring with them.

The standard: \$20 — \$25 per musician; \$50 — \$150 for DJs

Wedding Transportation

Again, check your contract, as gratuity is usually included. If it isn't, plan to tip provided they show up on time and don't get lost!

The standard: 15 — 20 percent of the total bill

Pay Wedding Pros in Full

The last thing you want to deal with right before your special day is a wedding pro asking you for money. If you have some wedding pros that will be paid the day-of or you need to distribute tips, give them to your most trusted bestie or relative a heads-up that come wedding day, you'll be counting on them to handle the labeled envelopes you have put together.

Break in your Wedding Shoes

Help your feet on your wedding day. Strut down your hallway. Dance in the kitchen. Wear socks with your wedding shoes. Do everything in your power to avoid painful blisters on your wedding night.





■ PHOTO LIST

From exchanging your wedding vows to hitting the dance floor with your friends and family, your wedding is made up of so many special moments you will never forget. Once your wedding day comes to an end, looking over your wedding photos will transport you back and help keep your special memories alive. This is why creating a shot list with moments and details you want to document is so important.



Your photographer will have a standard shot list that they will use as a guide for the day. It is very important to create your own. Compile a list of must-have photos. Special photos that your photographer will not know to take. Photos like a special Aunt, godparent, cousins, college roommates, etc.



■ THANK YOU

This is crunch time. My best advice is to act like your wedding is actually a week before the original wedding date. Take as much time off the week of the wedding so you can build in necessary R&R. Last-minute questions, weather plans, etc. will come up. You want to be as calm as possible going into the wedding week.

Thank you again for trusting us with your special day. I have loved being your Fairy Godmother.

I look forward to seeing you soon! I will arrive on-site about 30 minutes before your photographer arrives, and I will be alongside you during your wedding day.

With wands full of wishes,

Magically,

Your Fairy Godmother