

THE  
*Butterfly Bride*  
PLANNING CHECKLIST

A simple guide to a timeless, beautiful wedding day.



*Shelley*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# Dear bride...

First of all — take a deep breath.

If you're here, it means you're engaged. And that alone is something worth slowing down for. Wedding planning can feel exciting, overwhelming, joyful, stressful — sometimes all at once. There are a hundred decisions to make, opinions coming from every direction, and timelines that suddenly feel very real.

This checklist was created to bring clarity and calm to the process. Not pressure. Not perfection. Just a simple roadmap so you can move forward confidently and intentionally. The most beautiful weddings I've photographed weren't the most elaborate. They were the ones where the couple felt grounded, present, and genuinely excited to marry their best friend.

Use this guide as a flexible companion. Adjust it to fit your vision. Skip what doesn't apply. Add what feels meaningful to you. And most importantly — don't lose the joy in the planning. This season is short. It's sacred. It's worth savoring.

I'm cheering for you every step of the way.

With love,

*Kailee*

# 12+ Months Before

- Set a tentative wedding date
- Discuss overall budget (who is contributing + rough allocations)
- Draft a preliminary guest list
- Decide on overall wedding vision/style (formal, garden, modern, romantic, etc.)
- Choose ceremony + reception venue
- Book your photographer
- Book your wedding planner (if using one)
- Secure other high-priority vendors (venue, planner, caterer)
- Start collecting inspiration (Pinterest, Instagram, mood boards)



# 9-12 Months Before

- Say yes to the dress
- Choose wedding party
- Book florist
- Book DJ or band
- Book videographer (if desired)
- Reserve rental items (tables, chairs, linens, specialty décor)
- Engagement photos
- Create wedding website
- Send Save the Dates



# 6-8 Months Before

- Order bridesmaid dresses
- Choose groomsmen attire
- Book hair and makeup artists
- Plan honeymoon
- Schedule cake tasting + order cake
- Finalize décor vision
- Plan ceremony details (officiant, music)
- Register for gifts



# 4-5 Months Before

- Order invitations
- Plan rehearsal dinner
- Schedule dress alterations
- Finalize menu with caterer
- Plan transportation
- Purchase wedding rings
- Start drafting day-of timeline with photographer + planner



## 2-3 Months Before

- Mail invitations
- Final dress fitting
- Confirm all vendor bookings
- Create seating chart draft
- Apply for marriage license (check state requirements)
- Break in wedding shoes
- Finalize ceremony script



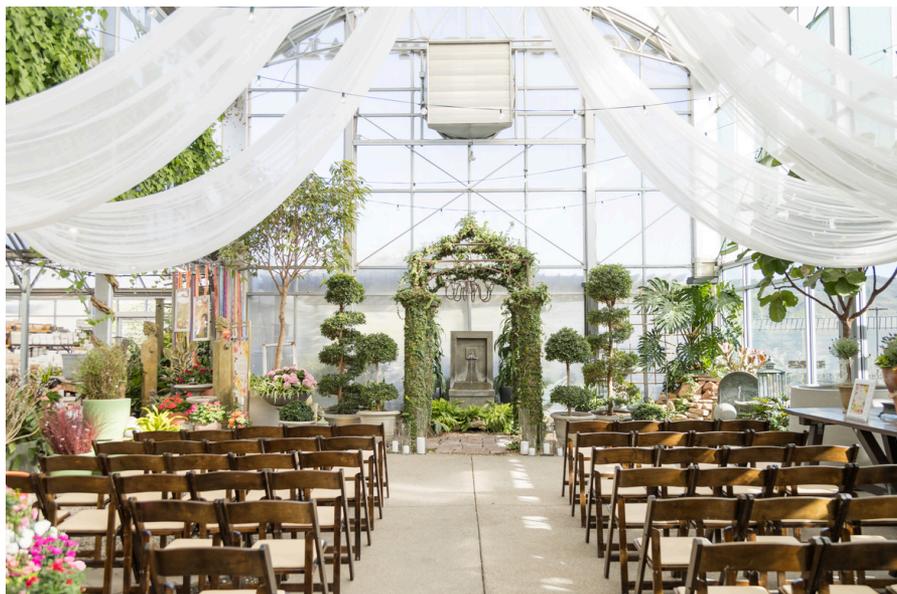
# 1 Month Before

- Confirm final guest count
- Finalize seating chart
- Send final timeline to vendors
- Confirm vendor arrival times
- Prepare tip envelopes
- Pack for honeymoon
- Write vows (if personal)
- Final beauty appointments



# Week Of

- Confirm transportation
- Pick up dress + steam if needed
- Rehearsal + rehearsal dinner
- Get plenty of rest
- Hydrate
- Delegate day-of responsibilities
- Soak in the moment



# Wedding Day

- Eat breakfast
- Drink water
- Give rings + marriage license to trusted person
- Trust your vendors
- Be present
- Marry your best friend



# Wedding Photography Checklist

## 1. Details to Have Ready

- Dress steamed
- All rings together
- Ring Box
- Invitation suite
- Shoes
- Vow books
- Jewelry
- Perfume
- Loose florals

## 2. Getting Ready Space Tips

- Choose the room with the best natural light
- Keep clutter in one corner
- Wear something you feel beautiful in
- Plan extra time for getting into your dress

## 3. Timeline Tips

- First look = more portraits + relaxed schedule
- Sunset portraits are magic
- Buffer time prevents stress

## 4. Emotional Prep

- Eat breakfast
- Drink water
- Be present
- Trust your vendors ♡

# Planning an LDS Temple Wedding?

*Here Are a Few Extra Things to Consider:*

## Temple Sealing Tips

- Schedule temple date early

## Luncheon / Ring Ceremony Considerations

- Decide if you're doing a ring ceremony for non-temple guests
- Coordinate timeline between temple + luncheon + ring ceremony + reception (I can help with this!)
- Consider exit moments (temple + reception); dip + kiss is ALWAYS a classic!
- Plan modest-friendly dress alterations if needed

## Utah-Specific Logistics

- Book vendors early (Utah wedding season fills FAST May–October)
- Consider weather variability

## Dress Considerations

- Make sure your dress meets temple guidelines (neckline, sleeves, back coverage).
- If adding sleeves or modesty panels, schedule alterations early.
- Consider bustle functionality for temple steps and walking.
- Bring comfortable shoes for walking around temple grounds.

*Pro Tip: A second reception dress can allow for more flexibility later in the evening.*

This can become a very long day!

- Build in rest time between events.
- Eat real meals (not just snacks).
- Allow travel buffer time between venues (Utah traffic + canyon roads).

