

PLANNING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE, NOT JUST FOR YOUR WEDDING

By Christine Vanderford, Esq.

Your wedding planner is busy worrying about the details of your wedding, but it's your responsibility to worry about the details of your marriage. With the changing society we live in, family law is becoming more and more important. In the United States nearly 1,300 step-families are formed everyday. In order to make the transition and lifestyle easier for blended families, proper planning needs to be considered. Pre-marital agreements and other documents should be created. These documents will help protect the parents entering the marriage and any children from previous relationships.

Many people cringe at the term "pre-nuptial agreement." With this term there comes an association of distrust or disbelief that the marriage will last. However, pre-marital agreements can be created to make both you and your partner feel comfortable, containing as many or as little provisions that you wish to have.

Estate planning documents should be created to state your wishes to provide for your new spouse but are especially needed to make sure you provide for any children from a previous marriage. Estate planning documents can be molded to your specific situation to include testamentary trust and guardianship language for your minor children to be sure their inheritance is distributed in a proper manner, but more importantly to ensure they have the proper guardians caring for them.

Christine Vanderford is an attorney in Lincoln who enjoys working with families to build and manage well-crafted family estate plans that promote communication and control in a changing family. To reserve your free consultation, contact Christine's office at 421-4646. Don't forget to let her know you read her comments in this newsletter.