



The prenup timeline

Four dates counted back from the wedding. A one-page guide for wedding planners and venues in England & Wales, to hand to couples who ask.

Milestone	Before the ceremony	Why it exists
Start by	70 days about 10 weeks	The conversation about what the agreement should actually do. Usually the slowest part, so it needs the most room.
Disclosure exchanged by	56 days 8 weeks	Each partner sets out what they own and owe. A solicitor cannot say whether the deal is sensible until both know what the other has.
Independent advice by	42 days 6 weeks	Each partner sees their own solicitor. Advice taken the night before the wedding proves very little, which is the whole reason for the gap.
Signed by	28 days 4 weeks	The gap between signing and the ceremony, so neither partner can later say they were cornered by the wedding.

Where the 28 days comes from

The gap between signing and the ceremony is a long-standing convention in England & Wales rather than a rule. The Law Commission recommended it in its 2014 report on matrimonial property, needs and agreements, and the Ministry of Justice proposed it again as a statutory safeguard in June 2026. Nothing has been enacted: under *Radmacher v Granatino* [2010] UKSC 42 a court decides for itself how much weight an agreement carries, and timing is one of the things it weighs alongside disclosure, advice and fairness. Miss a date and nothing is lost automatically. These dates describe the order that gives a court the least to criticise.

What to tell couples

- Raise it when the date is set, and at the ten-week mark at the latest. The timeline runs backwards from the ceremony, so a late start squeezes every step.
- Both partners need their own solicitor for the advice step. One solicitor cannot advise both sides, and advice is the evidence that each understood the deal.
- Disclosure is what takes the time: bank statements, valuations, pension figures, business accounts. Start gathering early.
- A prenup signed in the final month is not void, but a court gives it less weight. Couples who have already married can make a postnuptial agreement instead.

The dates for a particular wedding. Enter the ceremony date at ukprenup.com/prenup-deadline-planner/ and the four dates for that couple appear, with how much room they have. Nothing is sent or stored: the arithmetic runs on the page. The same site has a disclosure checklist and a cost checker, all free.