

# Marriage and money

Love is in the air! Getting ready to say "I do" is an exciting time. As the big day approaches, make time to ensure you're united as a couple on money matters including having open discussions about existing debts, budgeting for the big day, and how you'll merge your money in the future. Use this guide to help start the conversation with your partner.

## 1. Establish a budget for your big day

Taking time to plan your budget together can help ensure you and your partner are on the same page. Knowing what each of you care about for your special day can help determine where investments should be made.

**Use these simple conversation starters:**

- Is your dream celebration small or large?
- What are your must-haves for the big event?
- How much can we comfortably afford to spend?
- Will family help fund any of the festivities?

**A quick way to prioritize your budget is to complete this plan activity together.**

- Using a maximum of 100 points, decide the "value" of each item.
- High priority items get more points, lower priority items get less points.
- Compare your answers and come to a compromise. Add that number to the "ours" column.

Item	Points			Yours	Mine	Ours	Notes
	Yours	Mine	Ours				
Rings	15	5	13				
Venue	10	5	13				
Attire	15	5	13				
Photography	5	5	5				
Food	15	5	13				
Entertainment	10	5	8				
Decor	15	5	10				
Honeymoon	15	65	25				
Other	0	0	0				
Other	0	0	0				
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>				



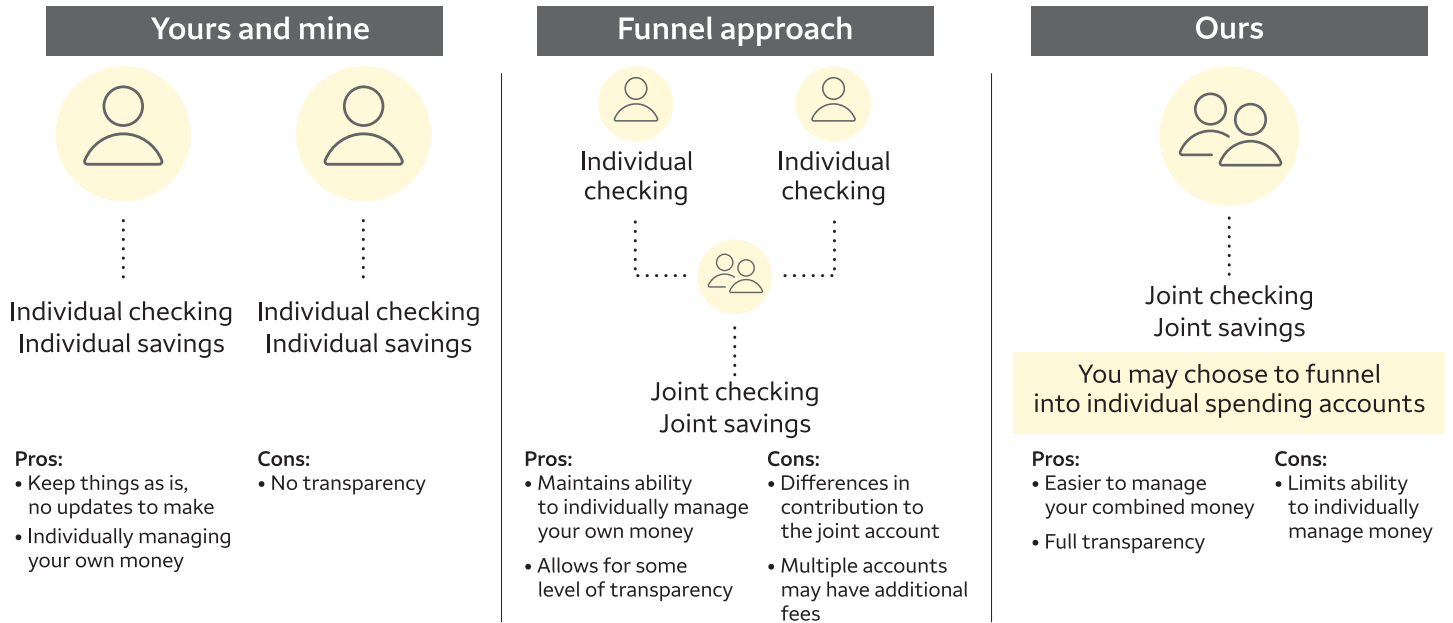
As you begin to plan, set up account alerts<sup>1</sup> to monitor activity.

## 2. Explore options when merging money

How you choose to manage your expenses may help you decide how to best merge your money. Do your research to determine what works best for your situation. Below are a few examples, with pros and cons to get you started. There may be legal or tax implications with each option, consider reaching out to a professional, if necessary.

Use these questions as conversation starters:

- How accessible is your money to both of you in the event of an emergency or unexpected expense?
- What are your joint spending limits and amounts for large purchases that you can agree on ahead of time?
- Assess which accounts have fees and which don't; could you save money by merging?



## 3. After the festivities

**Determine if you want to add each other to existing accounts.** You may want to consult a legal professional for changes to existing trusts, or to set up any new trusts.

**Make any legal name and address changes on accounts like** bank accounts, beneficiary information, deeds, etc. You will need your marriage certificate and valid ID.

**Continue to build and maintain your own credit history.** It's a good idea to keep some bills in each of your own names to build your individual credit history.



Scan the code to access the Wells Fargo Mobile® app and find more planning tools, resources or to make an appointment with a banker.

**Keep important documents, like the ones listed below, in a secure location that you and your partner agree on:**

- Bank accounts
- Birth certificates
- Deeds
- Marriage certificate
- Military discharge papers
- Passport
- Social Security cards
- Safe deposit box key
- Vehicle titles

1. Sign-up may be required. Availability may be affected by your mobile carrier's coverage area. Your mobile carrier's message and data rates may apply.

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