

Don't "Re-Do" Your "I Do" Before You Read This

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Remarriage is challenging in the best of situations. While most people are very excited about the idea of remarrying, very few adequately prepare themselves for the minefield of challenges that lie in wait for them. You should! Believe it or not, the remarriage divorce rate is at least 60%.

Today, let's take a look at seven of the most important questions to ask yourself and your partner before you start moving full steam ahead with the wedding plans.

1. How long have we dated?

Remarriage research shows us that the longer the dating period the more successful the marriage. Most remarriages happen quicker than first marriages. Typically, the rule of thumb for first marriages is to date at least a year.

There's a lot more work that remarrying couples need to do and a whole lot more players involved. Dating longer gives both of you the time to get to know one another, help any children adjust, and gets you past that really early time in relationships when you're blindly in love and overlook any faults that your partner may have.

2. How long have I been divorced?

Again, most remarriage research suggests that waiting a period of at least 2 years before remarrying allows for the greatest chance for success. I know you may be thinking, "Two years!!". However, take a minute and think about it.

There are a lot of tasks you need to complete before you're ready to make another commitment to marriage.

3. How well do my children know my new partner?

Your remarriage will be a HUGE change for your children.

This is bringing a new person into their lives whether they want them or not. Their reaction to this person will have a major impact on your marriage. It's in your best interest for your children to meet this person. All of you should spend time together to get a feel for what that new life will be like.

4. How do I know if my kids are ready?

Divorce or death of a parent can be an extremely traumatic situation for your children. Think about how you, as an adult, experienced the situation. You have ways of coping that you have learned over the years. As children, they've not had the opportunity or ability to learn those yet. Most researchers agree, that children are typically one step behind their parents in the grief process. What does this mean? Just about the time you let the kids know you are planning to remarry, they are finally becoming comfortable with single-parent life.

5. Am I emotionally ready to move on?

A remarriage by definition means a loss has occurred, whether by divorce or death. Those losses need to thoroughly be reviewed and dealt with. If there are "ghosts" from the past, they will constantly haunt your new marriage and leave it vulnerable. Also, if you are still hurt from what happened in the past, you won't be able to make partner choices as effectively as you would if you were healed.

6. What do we need to know about being a part of a step family?

This is critical. Step families are NOT nuclear families.

There are completely different dynamics. Without being armed with this knowledge before the wedding, you are setting yourselves up for failure. You don't get time to learn as you go because those dynamics will be in full force after the "I do's". If you've not taken the time to educate yourself beforehand, you will be playing catch-up along with just trying to deal with the everyday stressors of being newlyweds.

7. What do my partner and I expect from this marriage?

This is an important exercise in first marriages, but doubly so with a remarriage. One of the best ways at getting at this information is to talk about how these things were done, or not done, in your previous marriage and how you felt about it.

My hope is that, at the very least, these 7 tips will get you thinking and talking seriously about the realities of remarriage. It's not all gloom and doom, but the honest truth is that it's tough. Without adequate preparation, the odds are against you no matter how strong you think your relationship is right now.

And if you'd like more great resources to help you prepare for your remarriage and step family, I invite you to visit us at <http://www.RemarriageSuccess.com> . There you will find article archives, tips of the week, resources and other sites that will get you on your way toward your very own remarriage success!