

WEDDING: KETUBA

Who May Write the Ketuba

The ketuba may be written by anyone, whether male or female, Jew or non-Jew.

Ketuba Process

The ketuba is written before the wedding but is not finished until just before the signing, when one or a few last words are filled in. The ketuba is signed by two kosher witnesses after tanayim.

NOTE The ketuba is read later, under the chuppa.

Meaning of the Ketuba

The ketuba at a wedding is required and the husband obligates himself through the ketuba to support his wife. The ketuba may be the world's oldest document for women's rights!

Financial Responsibility of Husband

The husband, not the wife, has the responsibility of financially supporting the family. This is the halacha and NOT an opinion! That the husband must support his family is explicitly stated in every ketuba.

Safekeeping a Ketuba

A woman must keep her ketuba under her control, but it does not need to be with her or even be in her home. It may be kept with her parents or anywhere else safe. It should not be displayed in public. If she has definitely lost her ketuba (she cannot find it in any place where it should have been), she may not live with her husband unless she has another ketuba written.