

5 FINANCIAL RULES
FOR MARRIAGE



**MONEY IS
THE
NUMBER
ONE THING
COUPLES
FIGHT
ABOUT.**

But, it doesn't have to be. You can create rules that both you and your spouse agree to abide by. Talking about finances is unavoidable in marriage. When you create rules, you create expectations. This can lead to less worry and arguing.



RULE ONE

AGREE THAT AT A CERTAIN AMOUNT, PURCHASES MUST BE DISCUSSED.

Whether it's \$100 or \$500, set a reasonable limit. If anything you or your partner wants is more than this, then a discussion should take place. Consider your monthly budget and how much the item is needed. Will it change your life? Or make it more enjoyable? Talk it out and make the decision together.



RULE TWO

MEET WITH A FINANCIAL PLANNER REGULARLY.

You probably aren't an expert on planning for your financial future. So, find someone who is that you trust. Both parties in the couple need to be there for the meetings. You're discussing your future so it takes two. Listen to the financial planner on his/her recommendations to save more, build your 401Ks and make prudent investments.



RULE THREE

PLAN AND DOCUMENT BIG SPENDS.

Whether you are remodeling your kitchen or planning a European vacation, you shouldn't make these financial decisions in haste. Determine what your budget is then do your research. Document everything in a spreadsheet. Once you actually start making purchases toward the project or trip, add in the real costs. This helps you see if you're staying on budget and lets you determine budget versus actual.



RULE FOUR

HAVE MONTHLY BUDGET MEETINGS.

While it may seem formal to call it a meeting, that's exactly how you should treat it. In these monthly meetings, you should discuss everything spent and everything saved. Look at each month's impact on the annual budget. Some months you may have more to spend (think bonus, side jobs) whereas other months, you'll need to spend more (Christmas gifts). Keep an open dialogue about what's going on and how to prepare.



RULE FIVE

ADAPT FINANCIAL GOALS AS NEEDED.

Your financial goals will evolve in your relationship. In the beginning, you may have been concerned with saving for a house. Then you may transition to raising a family and saving for college. As you edge toward middle age, your goals will be retirement driven. It's important to be flexible and agile in your goals. Realize early that what works now may not in the future. Be honest about where you are and where you need to be.



**BEING IN LOVE IS ONLY PART OF A
HAPPY MARRIAGE.**

Trust and communication have to be part of it, too.

HOW WILL YOUR RULES IMPACT YOUR MARRIAGE?

Creating rules is part of setting boundaries, which means they shouldn't be broken. If you break them, it becomes less about the financial impact and more about breaching trust. Keep your rules visible, and your marriage free of money dysfunction.