

## Sorting out the gold from the gold diggers

How do dating agencies advise wealthy clients deal with the sticky subject of money before any wedding plans approach?

Susie Ambrose, CEO and Matchmaking Director of Seventy Thirty (pictured left) gives us her take on approaching what can be a difficult topic.

When suggesting a pre-nuptial agreement to a partner it is always best to be absolutely honest. For instance don't skirt around the issue by talking generally about people who have used them in the past etc. (this is likely to make him/her think that you are trying to manipulate the conversation). It will probably be best to introduce the idea openly and honestly by explaining that you are thinking about the two of you signing an agreement.

Explain to your partner your reasons for proposing this - it is important to emphasise that you are not suggesting for one moment that you do not trust your partner, rather you are seeking security and reassurance for yourself that your assets/wealth are not the reason he/she is with you. It is not an issue of whether you can trust the other person, it is an issue of both partners knowing exactly where they stand so that such concerns will never become a factor later in the relationship.

It may also be a good idea to compare it to the marriage contract - when two people promise to love and respect each other in a wedding ceremony they are entering into a binding agreement- the only difference is that the prenuptial agreement refers to finances rather than love/emotion or fidelity.

**Only by being absolutely honest with your partner and discussing this issue in a frank and open manner will the two of you feel able to absolutely trust each other and will then (hopefully) come to the same decision: that a pre-nuptial agreement will help both partners to feel secure and validated within the relationship- that the factor of wealth will be eliminated from the equation and both partners can move forward, confident in the knowledge that they have a relationship built upon genuine love and companionship.**

