### General Info

- Fathers could choose to accept or not accept children as their own.
- Adoption was an acceptable means of having children.
- Roman women were allowed to divorce their husbands, based on their husbands’ actions.
- Widowers were encouraged to remarry.

### Social Expectations

- Roman men were typically married at the age of 20, while Roman women were usually married around the age of 15. Minimum legal age for marriage was 14 for males and 12 for females.
- Dowry is a contribution of wealth from the wife's family, and is given at the engagement ceremony. These contributions can be slaves, clothing, jewels, or furniture.
- Rank heavily influenced what ages men or women married. Men had a lot of duties if they were a high rank. However, they needed wives to take care of the home.

### Requirements

- As Thompson explains, “Roman republic marriage transferred a woman from the authority of her father to the authority of her husband or husband's father or grandfather.”
- Marriage was not fully consummated until the first child was born → Marriage was about procreation.
- The wife’s dowry (or other property) became part of the household and managed by the husband.
- Monogamy (having of only one spouse at a time) was enforced by law.

### Legalities

- The marriage was considered terminated if love and affection ceased to exist between husband and wife, whereas nowadays mutual love has nothing to do with validity of marriage.
- "Consent and not cohabitation constitutes marriage." Both spouses must maintain an ongoing consent to the marriage for there to be marital affection.
- Ending consent to be married required the return of the dowry and other financial entanglements.