

WORST-CASE SCENARIO®

HOW TO DETERMINE IF YOUR DATE IS MARRIED

1

Examine the left ring finger.

After a period of about one year, a wedding band leaves a circle of lighter skin around the base of the ring finger. Your date may also touch the base of that finger inadvertently, as if something is missing.

2

Ask for a home phone number.

Most people in committed relationships spend at least one or two hours a week on the phone; if your date will not give you his home phone number, then he is worried someone else will answer when you call.

3

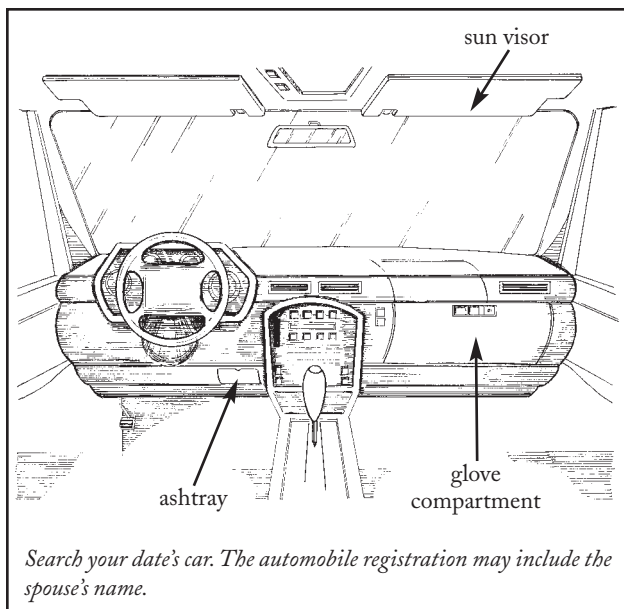
Insist on holding hands when walking in public.

If your date is interested and attracted to you, then he will not object to such a small and commonplace display of affection—unless he fears that someone will spot you together.

4

Search your date's car.

The automobile registration may be in the spouse's name, or in both names. It is usually kept in the glove compartment, behind the sun visor or, for non-smokers, in the ashtray. Look for signs of a spouse (clothing, makeup) or other indicators (pacifiers, pieces of crackers, toys) of a family your date has not mentioned.



5 Ask to meet some of his friends.

After two or three dates, this is not an unusual request. If your date claims that his friends remain close to his ex-wife, or that it's too soon to bring you into their social circle, you have good reason to believe that you are not the only woman in his life.

6 Invite him to spend the night.

If you have engaged in sexual activity on several occasions but he always refuses to stay the night, then he very likely has someone waiting for him.

7 Make plans to spend a weekend together.

If you never see him on Saturdays and Sundays, be suspicious. Your date may say that he spends weekends with his parents and/or with his children. But if he cares so much for you, and if his family is as great as he says they are, they will understand if you come along or if he shares time on the weekends with you.

8 Ask to meet his children.

He might have legitimate reasons for not introducing you to his children early in the relationship—for example, he may not want to present you as a possible mommy replacement until the relationship becomes more serious. However, it may also mean he is still married to their mommy.

Be Aware

Be suspicious of a lover who never writes you letters or sends e-mails, and signs greeting cards with only a nickname, an initial, or a term of endearment. This person may be making a conscious effort to avoid any paper trails to the relationship. For this same reason, also be wary of a date who always pays cash (see “How to Have an Affair and Not Get Caught,” page 142).