



Photography

Tips For Hiring A Photographer
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Tips For Hiring A Photographer

Your wedding pictures will preserve the memories of your wedding. Your photo album will remind you of the special moments of the day. A good photographer will know how to capture those special moments, that's why choosing the right photographer may be one of the most important decisions the bride and groom may have to make.

Here are a few things you should consider.

- ❑ Before making your final decision, you should look at the work of at least three photographers to find the one with the style you like. Many photographers will gladly come to your home to show their portfolio and the work they do.
- ❑ Get a photographer with experience and that you both feel comfortable with. It's important that the bride and groom like the photographer.
- ❑ Meet the person who will shoot your wedding before signing. The photographer is going to be working with your family and friends, and he'll be working closely with you on this most important day.
- ❑ Ask around to get recommendation from recent brides and friends.
- ❑ Good photographers get booked early. Reserve your photographer as soon as you are satisfied that you have found the right one.
- ❑ Use our photographers worksheet as a guide for questions to ask your potential photographer
- ❑ Look at the photographers' albums and proofs from previous weddings.
- ❑ When studying photographs, look for consistent lighting (both the background and subject should be well-lit), subjects should be sharp and in focus (with the exception of mood shots).
- ❑ Find out any restrictions at the ceremony site (whether it be a church or another venue), that would pertain to your photographer, make sure he is aware of all restrictions. Any problems or permits are your responsibility.
- ❑ Make sure the photographer has a list of all the shots to be taken.
- ❑ Plan enough time for pictures. If the photographer is rushed because you didn't allow enough time, you really can't blame him if certain shots don't get taken.
- ❑ Thinking of having a friend or family member (a non-professional) take your wedding pictures? Most pro's use medium format cameras. Do you really want to trust

- the most important event in your life to an amateur? It is your wedding and I'll say no more.
- Make sure this photographer will listen to your ideas. But when it comes to image composition, leave this to the professional. They will do a better job creating the perfect style for each picture.
- Make sure you and the photographer understands the maximum photos shot at your wedding. If you happen to get a snap happy photographer, you don't want to pay for more shots than you can afford. Get a set fee up front.

Things To Observe

- Is his work good?
- Is it consistent? In focus, sharp, good lighting etc?
- Does the photographer have a package that fits you budget?
- Do you feel a compatibility with the photographer? Does he genuinely seem to like his profession and work?

Does he listen to your ideas and needs?

Comparison List

Refer to our Photographer Comparison Worksheet to keep track of your interviews with different photographers. When you have finished with your comparison shopping, go to our Wedding Photo checklist to finish laying out your plans.

When you sign a contract, make sure the details described in the worksheets are written into each contract you sign. The service or vendor may have other items listed in the contract.

Always read the contract carefully before signing. Having both parties initial any additions or changes written into the contract. Contracts are important as they benefit both parties.

Questions To Ask A Potential Photographer

Name of Studio _____

Address _____

Photographer's Name _____

Phone Number _____

Are you available for my wedding date? YES NO

What is the price and what is included in each package you offer?

What time do you arrive? _____ What time do you leave? _____

Is travel time included or extra? If extra what is the cost? \$ _____

What type of equipment is used? _____

Do you bring back up equipment? _____

Do you use an assistance? _____

Does this cost extra? YES NO Add Cost \$ _____

Do you have a website? _____

Can proofs be purchased? Yes _____ No _____ Cost \$ _____

Who owns the negatives? _____

How long are the negatives kept? _____

Is there a minimum order? _____

When will the proofs be ready? _____

Do I get a choice of finishes? Yes _____ No _____

What are they? _____

Can you balance formal pictures with the candid picture? _____
(You don't want someone who has to pose every picture that is taken. After all, those unexpected shots are what makes the wedding so personal and special.)

Can I get a wedding without any formal posing? _____
(In this case, the photographer takes pictures of the wedding while it is happening, without having to pose formally)

Do you prefer to take pictures before or after the ceremony?

What is the additional fee for extra wedding albums?

Bride & Groom \$ _____ Parents \$ _____

Grandparents \$ _____ Others \$ _____

Fee for additional prints?

Wallets \$ _____ 3x5's \$ _____ 5x7's _____

8x10's \$ _____ 11x14's \$ _____

What is the cost of a bridal portrait? \$ _____

When do I need to make an appointment for this service, if I want the portrait in time for the wedding?

They say the proof is in the pudding, but in this case the proof is an unedited look of what the photographer can achieve.

Do you utilize various techniques and effect? If so what are they?

Is there an extra cost for this service? _____ Cost? \$ _____

Do you have a complete wedding album that shows your work, from beginning to the end?

Yes _____ No _____

Can I see book of proofs from a recent wedding. _____

What is the policy on picture satisfaction? _____

What is the policy for cancellations and deposit refunds? _____

Date of cancellation for a refund? _____

Can I get a signed contract stipulating what is included in your packages, the services, prices, payment, deposit and your cancellation policy?

Name and phone number of two references:

* Name _____ Phone _____

* Name _____ Phone _____

Notes:

Photographer Comparison

Studio #1

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Estimate \$ _____

NOTES

Studio #2

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Estimate \$ _____

NOTES

Studio #3

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Estimate \$ _____

NOTES

FINAL CHOICE

Name Of Studio _____

Photographers Name: _____

Phone: _____

Budgeted Amount \$ _____

Actual Amount \$ _____

Deposit \$ _____ Balance \$ _____

Date Balance Due _____

Photography Checklist

This checklist can help you and your photographer with photo ideas. It is not meant to be exhaustive and should only be used as a guideline. For instance; you might want a photo of the bride with both parents together rather than a photo of the bride with each parent individually. If your "photo package" includes a smaller number of photos, you will want to find ways to combine groups, or delete shots. A good idea is to get with your photographer prior to your wedding date to determine what photos you want and what photos are not needed.

One more note; if you want lots of candid, or a photojournalistic approach to your photos, don't bog your photographer down with an exhaustive checklist of posed photos. He will be constantly referring to his notes and gathering people while missing the candid.

Consider getting disposable wedding cameras and leave one on each table. Be sure the guest leave them on the table for your family to pick up after you leave the reception.

Pictures to be taken before the Wedding begins

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bride dressing for ceremony | <input type="checkbox"/> Groom dressing for ceremony |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bride, full-length solo | <input type="checkbox"/> Groom, close-up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bride with parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Groom with mother/father separately |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bride with mother/father separately | <input type="checkbox"/> Groom with sisters/brothers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bride with sisters/brothers | <input type="checkbox"/> Groom with grandparents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bride with grandparents | <input type="checkbox"/> Groom with best man |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bride with maid of honor | <input type="checkbox"/> Groom with bridesmaids |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bride with attendants | <input type="checkbox"/> Groom with groomsmen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bride with groomsmen | <input type="checkbox"/> Attendants getting ready |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bride with ring bearer, flower girl | <input type="checkbox"/> Attendants outside church |

Taken during the Wedding

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parents being seated | <input type="checkbox"/> Unity Candle (becoming more popular) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridesmaids walking down aisle | <input type="checkbox"/> Soloists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flower girl & Ring bearer walking down aisle | <input type="checkbox"/> Readers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bride and father walking down aisle | <input type="checkbox"/> Ring ceremony |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father giving bride's hand to groom | <input type="checkbox"/> Kissing ceremony |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exchanging of vows | <input type="checkbox"/> Recessional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breaking glass, jumping broom | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Immediately after the Wedding

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Formal bride and Groom together | <input type="checkbox"/> Newlyweds with bride's immediate family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newlyweds with parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Newlyweds with bride's extended family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newlyweds and entire bridal party | <input type="checkbox"/> Newlyweds with groom's immediate family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newlyweds with minister/priest | <input type="checkbox"/> Newlyweds with groom's extended family |

At the reception

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close-up of newlywed's rings | <input type="checkbox"/> Newlywed's first dance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cake table | <input type="checkbox"/> Father's last dance with daughter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cutting the cake | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower girl dancing with ring bearer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple feeding cake to each other | <input type="checkbox"/> Guests dancing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best man toasting newlyweds | <input type="checkbox"/> Wedding party dance. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best man and Groomsmen decorating the car | <input type="checkbox"/> Musicians / DJ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cake and punch servers | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candid photos of the bride and groom having fun with their family and friends. | |

Leaving the reception

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bride tossing bouquet | <input type="checkbox"/> Guests throwing rice, bubbles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Someone catching the bouquet | <input type="checkbox"/> Newlyweds getting into car, limo or carriage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groom tossing garter | <input type="checkbox"/> Car, limo, carriage driving away |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Someone catching the garter | <input type="checkbox"/> Newlyweds waving goodbye |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest waving goodbye |

Additional photos to consider

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post-reception party | <input type="checkbox"/> Bride changing into going away clothes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior of wedding location | <input type="checkbox"/> Newlyweds leaving on honeymoon |