



Videography

Tips For Hiring A Videographer
Questions To Ask
Comparison Worksheet

Tips For Hiring A Videographer

Comfort Level

This is the most important aspect of choosing a videographer. You should be completely comfortable with them. If you don't have a good relationship with your videographer it will definitely show in the video.

Style

When looking at video you need to remember that it is an art form. Just like any other artist each videographer has their own style. Do you like the style you see? The style you see in their preview should be exactly the style you want for your wedding video. Will you be shown a Demo or an actual wedding? Demos are often not true representations of an actual wedding. Ask to see a wedding in its entirety. This way you will see what you are going to get.

Flexibility

How flexible will your videographer be? Are they open to your ideas? Are they open to new ideas? Or are they set in their ways. Are they willing to entertain creative and new concepts? This craft is always reinventing itself.

Production

How will your video be produced? Does the Videography company have separate editors from the camerapersons? Or will the same person handle the entire production. More often, when the same person shoots and produces your video. It more accurately reflects the personality and atmosphere of you wedding day.

Two Camera Coverage

Aside from the obvious advantages of having the 2nd camera. The most important is your peace of mind. Although all professional should have back up equipment, by the time any professional realizes they need to use it, something has been missed. With 2 camera coverage it's highly unlikely to happen.

How many events per year?

Generally there are two schools of thought. High Volume, kind of like a fast food chain. Or Lower volume, more customized and individual attention, more like a fine restaurant. There is a need for both types of Videography companies. You must decide how important your wedding video is to you. Price will obviously be higher for the more individualized videographer. But as always you will get what you pay for.

How long has the company been in business?

Any one time event, no matter how well planned, will have unexpected changes. Only a seasoned videographer can comfortably and smoothly adapt to the constant changes of a live event such as a wedding.

Organizations

When your videographer belongs to professional associations it provides great benefits

to you. First, it means they take their craft very seriously and are intent on improving their business as well as their talents. Second, it allows the videographer to network with other professionals, seeing different ideas and concepts, and meeting colleagues who can provide back up in case of an unforeseen emergency.

Equipment

Cameras producing the best images right now are 3 Chip Digital cameras. They need very little and sometimes no light at all. Some are very small and unobtrusive. In the Videography world today, bigger is not always better. The smaller professional cameras give a wonderful image and they allow your videographer to be almost as unobtrusive and a fly on the wall. The days of the big cameras with the bright lights are over.

Insurance

Your Videographer should have liability insurance, to protect you from liability in case of accidents. Many locations do require proof of insurance from your wedding professionals
Black & White: Get them to commit it on writing. Include in the contract, exactly how many cameras they would bring, what are the costs that would be covered, when is the delivery date, important shots that should be covered and videographer that would be doing the job - you wouldn't want the company to send a different videographer from the one you chose.

Use our videographers worksheet as a guide for questions to ask your potential photographer and then Refer to our Videographers Comparison Worksheet to keep track of your interviews with different videographers.

Questions To Ask Your Potential Videographer

Name of Studio _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Contact _____

Name of Videographer _____

Phone _____

Services Requested for

Rehearsal _____

Pre-wedding shots _____

Ceremony _____

Reception _____

Two of The Most Important questions to ask your Videographer

1. Will the videographer you are meeting with, be the person actually attending and shooting your wedding video? Yes No
2. Did the videographer you are considering actually take the video and edit the special effects shown in the sample video, presented to you as examples of his/her work?
 Yes No

Other questions to ask.

* Will you take video before, during and after our ceremony? Yes No

* What type of camera do you use? _____

* What kind of lighting setup and additional equipment do you use?

* Do you bring a backup camera in case yours fails? Yes No

* What length will my edited version be? _____

* Number of tapes? _____

* Explain special techniques offered _____

* Will you follow a checklist of video shots I request? _____

* What are the number of hours you will available for my wedding? _____

* How do you charge? (per hour, flat rate) _____

* Total cost _____

* Cost per hour? _____ Is travel time included? Yes/No

* Type of payment arrangements? _____

* Required deposit _____

* Do you offer special package prices? **Yes** **No**

* Can additional copies be purchased? **Yes** **No** How much?

* Will I be given the master copy as well as an edited version? **Yes** **No**

* How long after the wedding will my video be ready?

* How does the videographer dress for the wedding? Tuxedo/Business Suit/Casual

* Are their any restrictions? (time, split locations)

* What is your editing process? (can we include childhood photo's, etc.)

Videographer Comparison

Studio #1

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Estimate \$ _____

NOTES

Studio #2

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Estimate \$ _____

NOTES

Studio #3

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Estimate \$ _____

NOTES

FINAL CHOICE

Name Of Studio _____

Videographers Name: _____

Phone: _____

Budgeted Amount \$ _____

Actual Amount \$ _____

Deposit \$ _____ Balance \$ _____

Date Balance Due _____