

A Photographic Guide for your Wedding

Fashions come and go in wedding photography. While the photographer needs to make your wedding photography look modern and up to date, it is also important that you are provided with photographs that will be expressive of your wedding and of a timeless character that will not fade over the coming years.

There are many photographic opportunities at a wedding. Although each photographer is a little different, it is important that the photographer have in mind a sequence of events and photographs before beginning. Just improvising as the wedding progresses will not reliably yield much memorable imagery. In fact, this is aspect of wedding photography in which the professional differs so greatly from the amateur.

Years of experience have taught me to go about making your photographs in an orderly and efficient manner that will result in photographs of the highest quality. The list below will give you some idea of the “script” in my mind as the day progresses. You should always feel free to add to or delete from the list.

Photographs before the ceremony

- The church and reception hall
- Mother adjusting the veil
- Candid shots of the dressing room
- The Bride with the flower girl and ring bearer
- Formal bridal portraits, full length and close up
- Informal and candid bridal portraits in unique lighting situations
- Portraits with bridesmaids
- Portrait of Bride's parents
- The Bride with her family
- Formal Groom portraits
- Informal Groom portraits in unique lighting situations
- The Groom with the groomsmen
- The Groom with his family
- Portrait of the Groom's parents
- Preparations for the wedding
- Guests arriving
- The guest book and attendants

Photographs during the ceremony

- Entrance of the Groom's party
- Entrance of the Bride's party
- The Bride coming down the aisle
- Father giving the Bride away
- Photographs of the ceremony (if permitted, and without a flash)
- The kiss
- The presentation of the couple
- The couple's recession

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Photographs after the ceremony

- **Candids of the couple in private after the ceremony**
- **Formal portraits of the wedding parties**
- **The Bride and Groom with parents and with families**
- **The Bride and Groom with the minister**
- **Formal Portraits of the Bride and Groom**
- **Informal portraits of the Bride and Groom**
- **Portraits by candlelight (if available)**
- **The signing of the marriage certificate**
- **Close up of the rings**

Photographs at the reception

- **Portrait behind the cake**
- **Photographs of the tables and cakes**
- **Cutting the cake**
- **Bride and Groom feeding each other**
- **The toast with arms interlocked**
- **Close up of the toast.**
- **Toasts by the guests**
- **The receiving line**
- **Informal portraits and candids**
- **The first dance together**
- **Throwing the bouquet**
- **Bride with the catcher of the bouquet**
- **Groom removing the garter**
- **Throwing the garter**
- **Groom with the catcher of the garter**
- **The bouquet and garter catchers together**
- **Bride and Groom leaving the hall**
- **Driving away**

Some of the most important photographs taken are the formal and informal portraits and the family portraits that follow the ceremony. This is the first time you will be photographed together as a married couple and they are usually the most requested of all your wedding photos. These photos should take no more than about 15 minutes.

In order to speed these very important photographs along, I recommend two things:

1. **Bride's photos (including bridal party and family) should begin 90 minutes before the ceremony. The Groom's photos (with his party and family) should begin 60 minutes before the ceremony. This prevents any of these photos from having to be made after the ceremony and allows about 30 minutes for your guests to arrive after the photographs are made.**
2. **Immediately after the ceremony, the new couple should go to a private area to await the photos after the wedding. In the meantime, the families and wedding parties should be instructed to immediately go to the area to be used for the photos. All others should be directed to the reception.**

My goal is to make the photos as quickly as possible so your guests won't have to wait very long for the reception to begin.