



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

We know that you want your wedding to reflect your style and taste, and you trust your photographer to document one of the most important days in your life. Capturing beautiful images is collaboration between both of you and requires good communication about what you want and what the photographer will provide. Since choosing a photographer is not an everyday event, nor is your wedding, we've answered the most frequently asked questions about wedding photography to help you make the right choice.

### **WHAT IS YOUR PHILOSOPHY ABOUT WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY?**

We believe a wedding is one of the most significant events of your life, deserving beautiful photography to document the day. A wedding is an event that celebrates the union of two lives, a joining of families, cultures, and traditions. It is the beginning of a new history together and a unique gathering of family and friends that most likely won't occur again. There is a story to be told on a wedding day, not just portraits of people smiling at the camera, but the details, emotion, relationships and drama within a wedding. Your photographs will be the visual reminder and historical record of all that occurs on your wedding day, becoming more precious as the years pass. Our mission is to capture the full story of your wedding, with sensitivity, artistry, and technical proficiency, in images that you will be proud to share.

### **WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR STYLE OF PHOTOGRAPHY?**

With a combination of portraiture and photojournalistic coverage, we strive to create timeless images that reveal the essence of your wedding. We photograph the bridal portraits and family groupings you want, in a more contemporary style, using beautiful lighting, helping you look your best, without stiff or unnatural poses. We use a photojournalistic approach to record the day's events as they unfold, capturing the spontaneous moments in an unobtrusive way. We want to photograph the entire day, not just highlights, to tell your complete wedding story.

Good quality lighting is something we're always conscious of, as it is a key element of great photography, making the difference between an ordinary image and an awesome image. We are proficient with strobe and available lighting techniques, often combining the two to give you beautiful, portrait quality lighting. Multiple flashes for candid and reception coverage is also utilized, resulting in a depth to these images that far surpass typical "snapshots". We incorporate multiple areas within your location site, emphasizing what is unique, resulting in images with an interesting variety of backgrounds. Multiple lenses allow us to capture different perspectives, providing you with more diversity in the look of your images, and adding to the visual interest of your album. Creative use of color, black & white and special techniques including sepia tone, and hand-coloring give your photographs a distinctive difference. Enthusiasm, professionalism, and a courteous, warm attitude is pleasant to all the clients we work with.

### **WHAT IS TRADITIONAL VERSUS PHOTOJOURNALISTIC WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY?**

A traditional wedding photographer is proactive, directing the subjects in order to achieve specific images, yielding predictable results. There is more emphasis on creating portraits of the subjects than photographing the event itself. The photographer controls the setting, lighting, and posing for a more flattering portrait. Poses are often extreme for a more dramatic effect. Photographs of the wedding events, often referred to as "candids", can also be somewhat directed by the photographer. For example the photographer may ask the bride and her father to turn and smile at him as they are about to go down the aisle, or to smile at him during the father/daughter dance. A traditional photographer captures the highlights or key moments of the ceremony and reception, but usually limits the photography to only those saleable images. Therefore albums can be predictable sizes since the same types of images are taken at each wedding, and albums often look similar from couple to couple.

A photojournalist is reactive, unobtrusively recording events as they actually occur, and people as they naturally are, without manipulation to achieve an image. Wedding photojournalists put more emphasis on capturing moments that comprise the event; to create a series of images that tell a story. Alertness and sensitivity are required to seek out and record the action. Portraits are a limited portion of the coverage, done simply and quickly. Many images are photographed to fully document the people, activities, emotions and details of the wedding day. Thus wedding albums are more personal since they are customized to each couple's wedding. Albums are usually larger or multiple volume sets because of the



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quantity of images. Keep in mind that wedding photojournalism can be more costly to produce and provide.

These are two different approaches which appeal to different types of people. Many photographers are not strictly traditional or photojournalistic, but are somewhere in between; offering contemporary portraiture, along with more complete event coverage of the day. There is a wide range in style, artistry and technical ability from photographer to photographer, and there is often confusion in terms of what they really provide. Some photographers claim to be photojournalists but most of their images shown are posed portraits. Look at lots of samples of their work, especially complete albums, to make sure you wind up with the wedding images you desire.

### **CAN I MEET YOU IN PERSON BEFORE THE WEDDING? CAN I SEE SAMPLE BOOKS OF WEDDINGS YOU HAVE PHOTOGRAPHED?**

We prefer to meet with you and your fiancé, as well as any other people taking a part in the planning and support of your wedding. Then any questions or concerns can be directly answered by us. We will show you complete albums and portraits from previous weddings we have done. This will show you the style, quality and consistency of our work and you can decide if what we offer is what you want. Then we will discuss what you are looking for in your wedding photos and we will come up with a coverage that will work for you. We make notes about your wedding plans and what you envision for your wedding day, then offer suggestions for ideas you may not have thought about. All the details are covered so that on your day you can relax and enjoy yourselves.

### **DO YOU HAVE AN ASSISTANT?**

We assist each other at all weddings to help with equipment, holding a reflector or a portable light, gathering people, and helping the photography coverage of the day flow smoothly.

### **WHAT WILL BE WORN?**

We always dress very professionally, befitting the formal occasion a wedding is.

### **WILL THERE BE AN EMERGENCY NUMBER IN CASE OF A CHANGE?**

Yes, we carry cell phones with us.

### **WHAT KIND OF CAMERA DO YOU USE? HOW MANY CAMERAS DO YOU BRING?**

We have two digital SLR cameras that we bring to all events. One is a Canon D60 the other is a Canon 20D. We also bring 2.5 GB in compact flash cards, and a laptop computer, just in case we need to download images from one of the compact flash cards to make room for more images.

### **ARE THERE TRAVEL FEES?**

There are no mileage charges for locations within 25 miles of the studio; over 25 miles from the studio will be billed at \$1 per mile. Wedding locations requiring several hours of travel time require 1 double occupancy hotel room for the night of the wedding.

For locations where air travel is needed, we will arrive one day prior to the wedding to allow for travel delays and to ensure we are well rested and full of energy for your "big day". Client will provide travel for the Photographer and one assistant as follows: Two roundtrip airfare tickets from Detroit MI, to the airport nearest the location of the wedding, 1 double occupancy room in a local hotel similar to that which is being provided for out of town guests for 3 nights, a mid sized rental car for the period of time from the Photographer's arrival to the Photographer's departure. Shipping of Photographer's equipment may incur extra costs due to airline restrictions and/or regulations.

### **MAY I PROVIDE A LIST OF MUST TAKE SHOTS? Black & White/Candids?**

We can provide you with a list of the most commonly requested photos. You may cross off any that you don't want or that don't apply to your situation, and add any special requests.



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### **HOW MUCH TIME IS NEEDED TO TAKE FORMAL WEDDING PHOTOS BEFORE OR AFTER THE CEREMONY?**

The time needed depends on the photos you want, the size of your wedding party and families, how many different groupings we are doing, and how much time you are willing to allow creating those romantic photos of the two of you. We usually allow 2 1/2 hours for the portraits. However, if you prefer a photojournalistic approach with minimal portraits, less time may be needed. We will work up a detailed schedule illustrating the time required to complete the photos you want. It is helpful to make copies of the Wedding Photos Schedule and distribute them to the wedding party and families so they know what time they will be needed for photos.

### **IS THERE A FEE TO GO TO A THIRD LOCATION, SUCH AS A PARK?**

No, we can go anywhere you like as time allows in your coverage.

### **MY FIANCE AND I ARE CONSIDERING THE TRADITION OF NOT SEEING EACH OTHER BEFORE THE CEREMONY. HOW MUCH TIME WILL THIS ADD...AND DOES IT COST MORE TO HAVE THE PICTURES DONE THIS WAY?**

Most couples prefer to complete all the portraits prior to the ceremony so that afterwards they can go right to the reception without keeping their guests waiting. Also we can capture that moment when you first see each other in your wedding attire in a special way. Couples enjoy starting their day with this private time together. If you don't want to see each other before the ceremony we can do some photos before the ceremony, with all the photos that include the two of you together done after the ceremony. The time needed depends on your specifics. We will work up a schedule for split portraits so you can decide which option you prefer. It is your day and we do what you want. There is no extra charge for doing the portraits in a split session.

### **WHAT TIME SHOULD I EXPECT THE PHOTOGRAPHER TO ARRIVE TO SET-UP?**

We usually arrive at the wedding site at least 45 minutes before photography is to start. We unpack and set up equipment and lighting and do a site survey, selecting a variety of areas to use in your photos. We do not charge you for this time.

### **WILL SPECIAL LIGHTING BE REQUIRED?**

Studio lights or a portable unit are used for indoor portraits, on-camera flash for candids, and we use natural light whenever possible. We prefer using available light to retain the ambiance of the ceremony, requiring a high speed film and use of a tripod in low light rooms. When doing outdoor photos we prefer to use available light and search for the best areas to do that within your location. We often combine outdoor available light with portable softbox lighting so you will always have beautiful portrait-quality lighting with a sparkle in the eyes and no harsh shadows on the face.

### **HOW MANY PHOTOGRAPHS DO YOU TAKE AT A WEDDING?**

Although it varies from wedding to wedding, there is no limit on photographs; we cover the event completely in the amount of time you choose to have us there. We generally create 75-100 photographs per hour.

### **HOW MANY BREAKS IF ANY WILL YOU TAKE?**

We are too busy to take breaks, although we try to grab a drink of water to prevent dehydrating.

### **WILL I BE REQUIRED TO FEED YOU?**

As a general rule, if you have employed us for 5 or more hours, dinner at the reception is preferred. With most weddings we are on-site 45 minutes to one hour prior to your arrival. If we have been with you for the duration of the day, through applying make-up, dressing, ceremony, formal pictures, and reception, it has most likely been several hours since we last ate. Yes, it is nice to be invited to have dinner at your reception. We are very professional and keep an eye on the action so that we don't miss anything.



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Therefore we eat at the same time and in the same room as the bride and groom so that we are ready when you are.

### **WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT DISPOSABLE CAMERAS FOR GUESTS TO TAKE PICTURES AT THE RECEPTION?**

We think it's a great idea for guests to get candid shots of other guests around them while we are busy on the other side of the room photographing the bride and groom events. Our clients have related to me that they did get a few good photos but only about half are usable, the majority are underexposed, blurred, or they receive 20 pictures of the cake. Many have said the photos they received were not worth the expense, that they would have been better off putting that money towards their professional photos, especially if they were on a tight budget.

### **HOW SOON WILL THE PHOTOS BE READY FOLLOWING THE EVENT?**

Online viewing is available in approximately three weeks and a proof magazine two weeks later. Portrait images from engagement sessions are presented for online viewing a day or two after your engagement session.

### **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR THE PRINTS AND ALBUMS TO BE READY?**

Portrait orders require approximately four weeks depending on what is being done. Complete album and print orders are ready approximately six weeks after the order is placed.

### **DO YOU DEVELOP THE PRINTS YOURSELF?**

We use professional labs for processing and printing according to our perfectionist standards. The corner drugstore or "One Hour" labs can not produce the quality and care required for professional looking prints. Preparing the order for printing is a labor intensive process, and that is part of the service we provide. We take pride in the quality of our work and we want it to look right because our work is our reputation. We make sure your prints are flawless, with the correct color balance and density, so you can be assured that your images have the quality you deserve.

### **WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO HIRE YOU? WILL THERE BE A WRITTEN CONTRACT?**

Reservation of your date requires payment of the retainer and a signed Wedding Agreement which covers all details of services you will receive. You can do this by phone with a credit card, mail a check, or meet with us in person.

### **WHAT IS THE DEPOSIT AND WHEN IS THE BALANCE DUE? WHEN SHOULD WE RESERVE YOUR SERVICES?**

The retainer amount is 1/3 of the package price and is non-refundable if cancellation is within 30-days of your wedding. The balance will be due one week prior to the wedding. Dates often book up to one year in advance, so please reserve your date as soon as possible, to insure availability.

### **WHAT IS YOUR CANCELLATION POLICY?**

When you reserve us to photograph your wedding we turn down other jobs for that date, so if your wedding is canceled within 30 days of your wedding, the initial fee paid to retain us for your services is non-refundable. All other deposits towards your plan are refunded. Any services already completed, such as the complimentary Engagement Portrait Session included in one of our plans, will be billed to you at the current market price. If you rescheduling your wedding for a future date, the retainer amount will be refunded less a \$50 processing and handling fee.