

HOW TO BOOK THE BEST WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

As a professional wedding photographer, I hold some vital information that you can utilize when selecting your wedding photographer! Over the years, and over 500 weddings, I have educated many people on the importance of finding the "best" wedding photographer for your big day. It's not just about liking someone's images, but rather connecting on a personal level with the single most important vendor you will employ! You will have more interaction with your photographer than any other *person* on your wedding day....yes, even your new husband or wife! A photographer's personality and demeanor can make or break the mood and flow of what can be a very stressful day. Not only does experience come into play, but also the photographer's attitude, experience and disposition are crucial. It can hinder or simplify the overall success of one of the most important events in your lifetime!

Below is a step-by-step approach when interviewing your wedding photographer!

1. The Three most important topics when selecting your wedding photographer:
 - LIKE their work, be in their price range and LIKE the photographer directly. You will interact with your photographer more than any other single person at your wedding!
2. Ask to see complete weddings, not just the best of the best on a website or in a sample album.
3. Talk about your "vision" for your wedding. You've been flipping through Instagram, Pinterest, Facebook and bridal magazines; be sure you and your photographer are focused about your idea.
4. Ask lots of questions in the consult. Find out just how "experienced" they are.

Important questions to ask in your consult:

- a. What is your style of wedding photography?
- b. How many weddings have you photographed?
- c. Are you insured?
- d. Is this your full-time business?
- e. Will it be YOU personally who will be photographing my wedding?
- f. What happens if you are injured/sick on my wedding day?
- g. Are there any additional costs on the back end?
- h. What payment plans do you offer, do you take credit cards?
- i. Who are your second photographers that work with you?
- j. What kind of equipment do you use; do you have backups?
- k. What will you wear to my wedding?
- l. Will you accommodate my guests asking for photos of them?
- m. Can my guests take pictures at my wedding?
- n. Do you accept special request photos?
- o. How will I receive my photographs?
- p. Will I have the rights to do as I please with the photographs?
- q. How long will I have to wait to see my photos?
- r. Why should I hire you over photographer x, y and z?
- s. Do you offer discounts?
- t. What if it rains?
- u. Have you ever photographed at the venue I've chosen?
- v. How can my wedding guests see/access the photos?
- w. What happens if the date is cancelled or postponed?
- x. How do I secure your services for my wedding?
- y. Do you have a contract protecting all parties from any legal issues that may arise?
- z. Is there anything else I should be asking you?

Now, Did you feel confident after your consult to hire the photographer? If not, look for a better fit. There are a lot of great wedding photographers out there. If you don't "click" during your consult, it may be best to interview one or two more. Go with your gut! Photographers get booked early; I am being booked over a year out in most cases. If you have a consult and you are satisfied with everything, it may be best to book their services immediately or in the next few days!

Securing a wedding photographer can be the most important choice regarding vendors for your wedding! As a wedding photographer, I have heard all of the horror stories about hiring uncle Bob, getting a friend to shoot your wedding and skimping on a "good enough" photographer. Investing in your photographer can be one of the wisest moves. Once the cake has been eaten, the flowers have wilted and your guests have returned home; all you really have is each other.....and your wedding PHOTOS!

I pride myself on approaching every wedding as if it were my own. Every thought that went into selecting your flowers, colors, linens, bridesmaid dress, décor, centerpiece and the minute details reflect time spent planning. I understand the importance of these decisions and I capture all of the hard work on my camera. Your wedding only happens once and my goal is to document every detail, emotion, subtlety and significance of your day. Choose your wedding photographer wisely, if not, it might end up costing you more than just money.

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