

A full-page photograph of a wedding couple standing on the steps of a grand, white, classical-style building. The building features a prominent portico with four large white columns and a triangular pediment. The couple, a man in a tan suit and a woman in a white wedding dress, are embracing in the center of the frame. The text 'THE wedding GUIDE' is overlaid in the center, with 'wedding' in a large, elegant script and 'THE' and 'GUIDE' in a clean, white serif font.

THE *wedding* GUIDE



Welcome!

You're getting married...

And I am SO excited for you!

My desire is to be so much more than just your photographer. We will be spending a ton of time together on your wedding day, so I'd love for you to consider me your friend! My friends are always asking me for wedding planning and photography advice, so I'm sharing my best friend-to-friend tips and giving you the low down on what to expect!



creating your
timeline



Before we chat about the timeline, let's touch on first looks...

It is no secret that wedding photographers LOVE first looks. Why? Not just for the special moment and beautiful, emotive photos we get to capture when you do one, but also for the more relaxed timeline first looks allow us to create.

When you do a first look, this allows us to do photos of the two of you and group photos BEFORE your ceremony. This means we can knock out couples photos, wedding party photos, and even some family photos if you want! Doing these photos before your ceremony allows for a far more relaxed/enjoyable photo taking experience.

If you do not do a first look, I, of course, respect your decision! We'll certainly make it work. Just know we will need to take ALL couples photos, wedding party photos, and family photos after the ceremony. This is a ton to squeeze into a short time frame, and you + your family/wedding party will likely be eager to get to your reception and celebrate.



other timeline

TIPS

01. Buffer time.

I always recommend clients to build buffer time into their timelines. For example, if you expect something to take 30 minutes, build 35 minutes into your timeline so that you will not feel stressed or rushed if things are running behind. Hair and makeup can often take longer than expected!

02. Time for just the two of you.

As I mentioned earlier, time spent alone with your partner on your wedding day is rare! I highly recommend intentionally planning time (even if it is just a small slice) to spend with your partner. I love sneaking my couples away for golden hour photos then letting them have a few moments to themselves before returning. I also love private last dances!

03. Grand exits/entrance.

In addition to doing a grand exit, some couples like to also do a grand entrance into your reception! Sparklers still look pretty in the daylight, or you can consider doing confetti, rose petals, or other fun options.



Find the perfect space.

If there is not a bridal room provided with your venue - when choosing your getting ready location, look for somewhere that is nice and open with lots of natural light.

Keep it clean.

If you would like to have clutter-free photos, designate a room or corner of the room to be the bag area and try to keep most stuff in that corner. **Or schedule to have the bridesmaids clean up 10-15 minutes before I arrive!**

Have details ready.

You have likely spent time specially selecting certain details of your day, so I love to photograph them as a part of the story of your day! Please have all details gathered and ready for me to photograph when I arrive. After greeting you, I will immediately start on detail photos as your hair and makeup is being done. I recommend having these gathered in a box ahead of time. Examples in the page below!



the details box....

For the bride

Shoes
 Perfume
 Jewelry
 Nice hanger for dress
 Rings
 Bouquet ***Please have florist deliver in time and if possible, ask for spare blooms to be used in detail shots.*
 Any other special details

For the groom

Shoes
 Watch
 Cuff links
 Cologne
 Any other special details

Other

Rings + ring box
 Vow books
 Any stationary



unplugged wedding

Why to consider having one...

I get it, your wedding day is exciting and your friends & family are probably eager to snap some phone photos! During certain parts of the day (such as the reception), this is completely acceptable; however, many guests do not realize that certain moments (such as the ceremony) are not the time to be on their phone.

I have seen many instances where a guest sticking their phone out into the aisle obstructs not only the moment as it unfolds, but also the photos I am taking as the hired photographer. To avoid having phones dangling out of the aisle and to allow guests to be more present, I strongly suggest having an unplugged ceremony

I recommend asking your officiant to make a brief announcement before the ceremony, asking all guests to turn off their cell phones and please refrain from taking photos during the ceremony. Your photos will not be ruined by phones or iPads, and your guests will be free to enjoy the moment and be present with you!



family photos

TIPS

My desire for you is to have the smoothest and most efficient family photos possible! While they can seem daunting, I am here to make them easy-breezy. Here is my advice:

01. Alert your family.

Let the family members who will be in your group photos know ahead of time, and/or have your officiant make an announcement for family to gather for photos in a designated place after the ceremony. If you are doing immediate family only, make sure to have the officiant make this distinction.

02. Shot list.

I will ask for a shot list before your wedding to have all the family photo combinations you would like. This way, I can have my assistant or a friend of yours call out who is up next. Plus, this will ensure we do not forget any photos you'd like.

03. Start big.

I recommend structuring your list to start with the biggest group first, then working your way to smaller groups so that guests who are no longer needed can be dismissed. I also suggest having grandparent/older guest photos done first so they may be dismissed earlier as well.

04. Designated helper.

Having a helpful friend or family member who know your families well and is willing to assist in making sure all included in family photos are present and ready to go can be a big help!

05. No phone photos please.

When a guest is taking a phone photo over my shoulder, this can confuse the people in the photo with where to look and can also really slow things down. Please have guests refrain from taking phone photos.

Holistic health.

You may be tempted or feel pressure to go on some crazy, fad diet to get in “wedding shape” -- but friends, please prioritize your well being (physical and mental!) first. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be more active and healthy, but remember that your mental health is just as important. I recommend trying out yoga classes, drinking lots of water, and doing your best to reduce stress where you can.

Focus on what matters.

Sure, there may be unexpected bumps in the process or even on the day of your wedding, but what matters most is that you are getting married! (And all of your people are going to be there, celebrating with you). The couples who have the BEST time at their weddings are the ones who really focus on what matters, and don't sweat the little things.



soak it all in...



Lastly,

I'm here for you!

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can help you in any way beyond this guide! As a reminder, we will have a final phone call and walk through everything about a month out from your wedding. If you have any questions in the meantime, I'd love to help.

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Cheers!

Kayleen