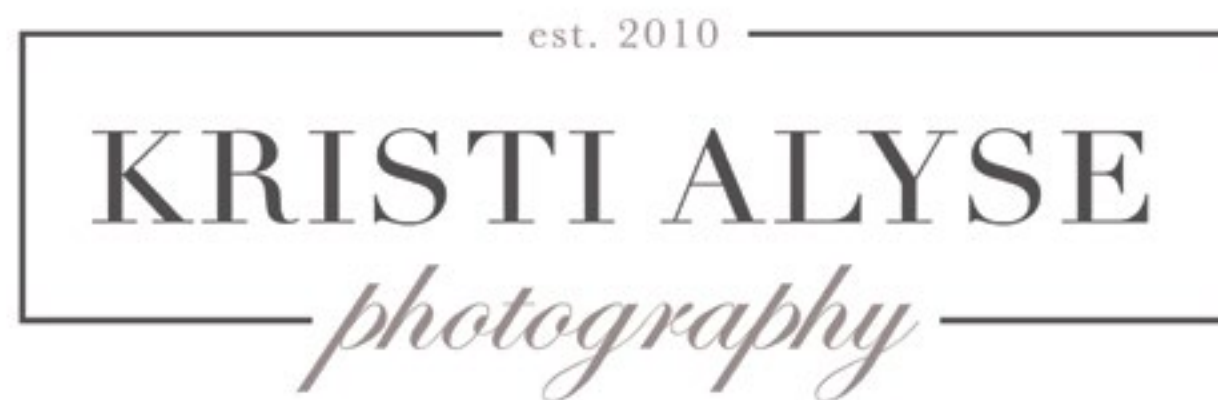


THE
WEDDING
EXPERIENCE

A Guide for all Kristi Alyse Brides





W E L C O M E

I am Kristi Alyse Price and im so glad you found me! I'm a professional wedding photographer with over 10 years of experience! My team and I help enthusiastic couples plan whole hearted weddings. We do real, we do raw, and we do beautiful. The value of a photograph isnt what you look like, if you were having a good hair day or if you picked the perfect outfit. The value of a photo is how it makes you feel and what it helps you remember. If you agree that whole hearted is better than perfect, and you want every part of your relationship captured, then you are definitely in the right place! Planning a wedding can be stressful. My goal with this guide is simple - to help the photo part of your wedding process to not only be easy and FUN! Let's see if our 10 years of wedding experience can add some value to your day!



GET TO KNOW KRISTI

You may have already caught on to this... but I LOVE what I do! Documenting your wedding day is such an honor. I truly believe the more we get to know each other, the better job I can do documenting your wedding day and more importantly, your relationship. So don't be afraid to tag me in memes on instagram, send me text messages or marco polos to ask for planning advice or just tell me about something exciting going on in your life! I love hearing from my brides and grooms!

WEDDING DAY FAVORITES

Here are three of my favorite parts of the wedding day to photograph!



BRIDAL DETAILS

The details of your wedding day can really help your vision for the wedding day come to life! I love starting off the day with beautiful details! I consider this my "warm up" time. These details allow me to be creative from the moment I begin shooting on your wedding day I love having this time to prepare for the rest of your day!



Getting ready for "I do"

Getting ready for your wedding is full of so many emotions and I love being there to capture the range of emotion you will feel as you get ready to say I do! And once you get the dress on, we can do a first look with your dad, bridesmaids, or anyone else that you've opted to share this time with!



The Big Exit

The exit is the last hurrah on the wedding day! I always give my couples the advice to GO SLOW as they exit. That way, not only can I get plenty of photos for you, but you can soak up all the love and support from your loved ones! When else are you going to have a chance to literally be surrounded by people cheering you on!



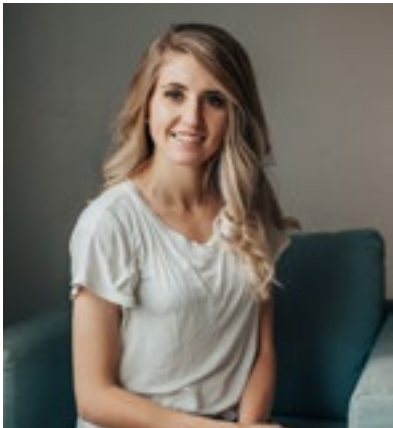
The Kristi Alyse Team

The Kristi Alyse Photo goal is to serve each and every client in a meaningful way. We dont just show up, take photos, deliver and say peace out.

We get to know our clients so we can serve people intentionally, purposefully and PERSONALLY. This means putting in hard work, and boy do we love doing that work! It also means we are a TEAM. No matter which photographer you are working with, they always have the full support of the team behind them so that they can focus on serving you!

Meet the Team

Get to know Megan



Get to know Joni



Get to know Katie



Megan has officially been a member of the Kristi Alyse Team since 2019, but she spent years as an unofficial part of the team, assisting and second shooting weddings for Kristi. She lives in Northern Utah with her husband and two adorable sons.

Joni joined the Kristi Alyse Team after attending a workshop Kristi co-hosted and impressed Kristi with her bubbly personality, kindness and fresh, fun vibe that she brings to shoots! She spends her days teaching dance and playing cars with her adorable son!

Katie joined the team as our official second shooter for weddings! She has a great eye for catching fun, candid moments and provides the support your main shooter needs to deliver the photos of your dreams! Katie lives in Salt Lake with her soon to be husband.



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A few tips for planning a whole hearted wedding

1. A lot of wedding traditions don't actually make sense or add value to modern day weddings. Don't be afraid to pick and choose the traditions that make sense for the day you are planning, and ditch the others.
2. Set priorities for the wedding day. Think about how you want to feel on the wedding day and plan the day out accordingly. Don't want to be stressed? Give yourself plenty of time and hire help. Create a list of what you want and put it in order of what's most important to you.
3. Get together with both sets of parents, aunts, grandmas, or anyone else who will want to help with the wedding process. Discuss roles, set boundaries, budgets, schedules and to-do lists.
4. When it comes to the budget, prioritize using high quality vendors. An amazing vendor who can add value to your day is worth every penny. We can help with the planning and ensure the wedding day goes smoothly.
5. If you have a vendor you are dying to work with, contact them ASAP to make sure they are available on your wedding date. Most of our wedding clients contact us before they even have a ring on their finger just to ensure we aren't already booked.
6. Don't forget to have FUN and enjoy this time. You only get to have a fiance for so long. Don't let every minute be taken up by wedding planning.
7. Discuss roles and responsibilities of planning the wedding day with your fiance. Ask for help when needed. Don't leave them out. Find out what parts of wedding planning are exciting to them. Share the load and share the excitement.





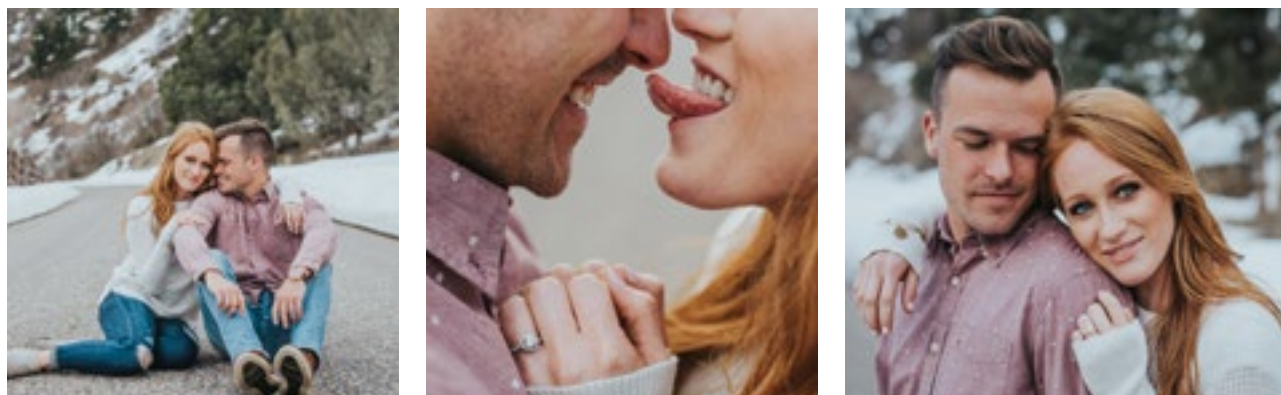
YOUR ENGAGEMENT SESSION

I encourage an engagement session in The Wedding Experience because I truly believe that they are a VITAL part of the entire process. During your engagement session, you'll have the chance to get to know me, experience how I shoot, and how I handle posing and lighting. This session will make a HUGE impact on how the wedding day flows. I'll arrive on your wedding day already knowing how you two interact, what your best poses are and how to photograph you in a genuine way! What I will learn about you during your engagement session is invaluable! You will feel like such a pro on your big day because of the great practice you had during your engagement session, and that's how it should be! Your engagement session can be scheduled anytime before your wedding day. I normally suggest booking it at least 3 months in advance to avoid stress.

Because my weekends are filled with weddings, I try to shoot engagements on weekday evenings. The time will depend on the light and the time of the year. As you start to plan for your engagement shoot, we will need to start brainstorming about location ideas. I like to be involved in picking a location because light can completely change the way your photos look! Picking a location with good light is key! I LOVE it when we come up with a location that is special or sentimental to you guys! Don't be afraid to think outside the box! As long as the light is great, I can make ANY location look awesome! I shoot in the mountains, on the beach, lakes, campuses, downtown, even in your home! Be sure to keep reading to find out more about outfit ideas and inspiration!

ENGAGEMENT PREP

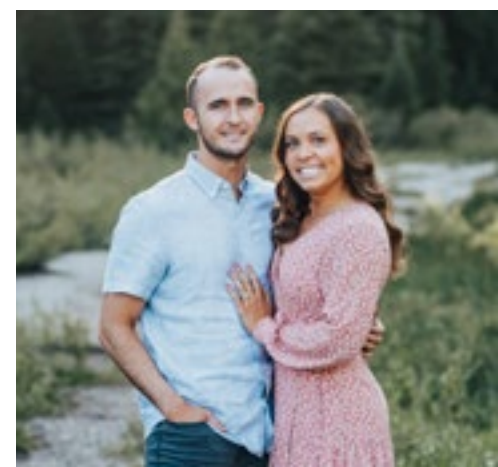
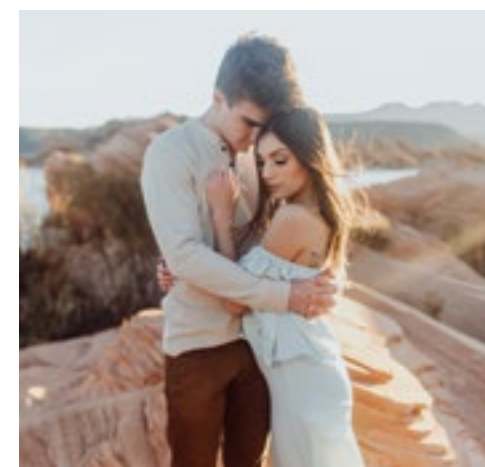
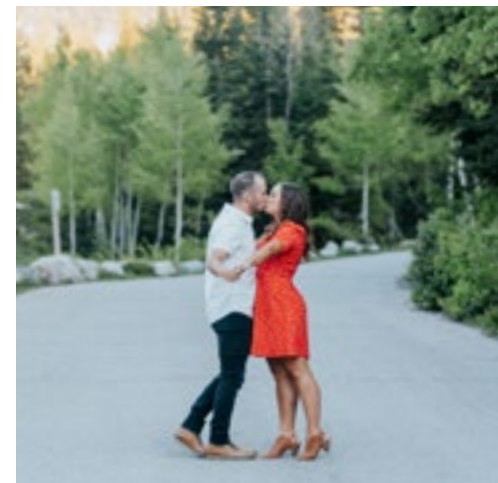
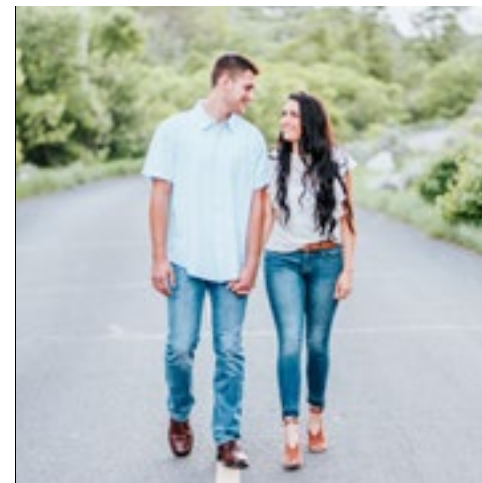
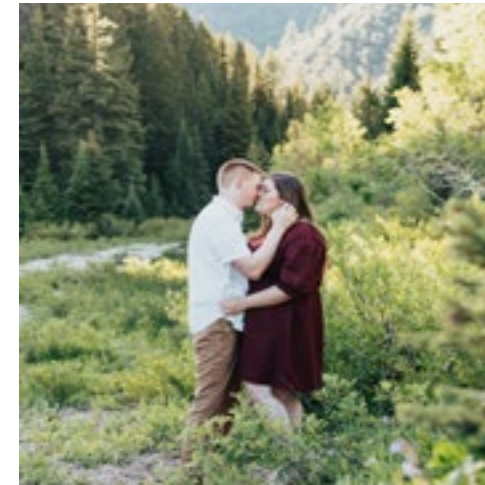
It's always a little intimidating to have your picture taken, but when people show up and let themselves be seen, magic happens! Instead of worrying about if your hair is out of place, I encourage couples to just focus on each other. Have fun. Be real. Let's capture what your relationship is really like. The passionate love, quiet moments and everything in between.



- Don't try to MATCH...try to pick outfits that coordinate instead. If everyone wore the same exact color at their shoot, how boring would those images be?
- Pick outfits that are YOU. If you aren't a super formal person, don't feel pressure to show up in pearls and heels. Just be you.
- Some simple patterns are ok.... however, graphics are not favorable for portraits. If you're wearing a pattern, make sure it's not overwhelming or distracting.
- Be sure to check out my Pinterest boards for more outfit inspiration if you're having trouble! I'll send you the link once you officially book.
- Empty your pockets! You don't want to have key chains or phones showing through your pockets. (This is for the guys especially!)
- Most often, couples like to have one casual, everyday outfit and then one outfit that is dressier! This will give your shoot two totally different "looks".
- Make sure you're comfortable in what you're wearing. And ladies, if the top is super low cut, that will limit the amount of angles I can shoot from.
- BE ON TIME! The sun is only out for so long! The later you arrive, the less time we have to shoot! And nobody wants that!
- Clean the ring! I love to shoot a few ring shots during the engagement session. The cleaner the better!
- Relax, you don't have to be a pro at this! I'm going to help you along the way and it's going to be a blast! Enjoy this time together, and make a date out of it! Plan dinner afterwards and celebrate!



OUTFIT INSPIRATION





ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Approximate Start Times

WINTER Dec-Mar 3-5pm

December through Mid-March you can plan on your engagement session taking place around 3-5pm. However, the time changes in Mid-March so that will make the start time one hour later.

SUMMER Jun-Aug 6:30-8:30pm

Summer engagement sessions take place about an hour before sunset. This will hopefully mean that the shoot will be during the cooler part of the day.

SPRING Apr-May - Varies

The sunset time drastically changes throughout the course of these two months so our shooting times change as well. You can plan to start approximately 5:30 in April and 6:00 in May.

FALL Sept-Nov - Varies

In Sept, you can plan on 5:30-7:30 until the third week and then you can plan on 5:00-7:00 until Mid- Oct. After the first week of Nov, 3:00-5:00pm.

LOGISTICS:

- I photograph engagement sessions on weekday evenings because our weekends are dedicated to photographing weddings!
- I love shooting at gorgeous locations. I recommend two locations max for engagements. A general rule of thumb is the more locations and outfits, the less images, but the more variety you'll have!
- Ill send you a questionnaire to help me understand your vision and help us pick the perfect location! Watch for that in your email!





Your Formal Session

Why it's Worth It

GUARANTEED PORTRAITS

The best lighting, the best poses, an ample amount of time. These are all benefits to prioritizing formal photos in your timeline, or better yet, planning it for a separate day!

A FIRST LOOK

You actually get to have intimate time with your soon to be spouse in your wedding dress. It's just you and him. Without family, friends and strangers watching, the moment is even sweeter.

ENJOY THE SURPRISE FREELY

Most brides don't realize that when you come down the aisle and he sees you for the first time as his bride, he can't even tell you how amazing you look. He can't touch you, embrace you or even SPEAK to you. You have to wait until 30 minutes later when the ceremony is over for him to react and tell you how amazing you look. And after 30 minutes of the ceremony, the reaction isn't the same as the initial first glance.

EXTEND YOUR DAY

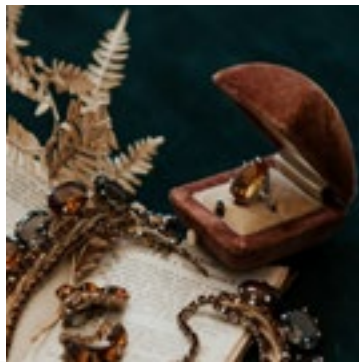
Formal sessions allow you to extend your wedding day. Normally the wedding day would start when you come down the aisle or exit the temple. Then you rush through portraits so that you're not late for the luncheon or dinner, and then it's reception time. With a formal session on a different day, your wedding day is extended! Instead of being rushed for your bridal party portraits... you actually get to enjoy them.

YOUR
WEDDING
DAY



SAMPLE TIMELINE

Bridal Details 45 + min-

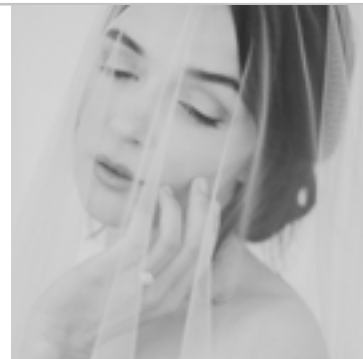


Every bride loves having those beautiful shots of her bridal details. It's an important part of the story and I love having some time to shoot the dress, shoes, jewelry, invitations, etc. These shots allow me to get warmed up for the rest of the big day. I normally like to allow at least 45 minutes for this part of the day. While I'm shooting details, I'm also capturing some shots of the bride and her girls getting ready! If the groom is getting ready nearby, I can send my second shooter over to grab shots of him getting ready as well!

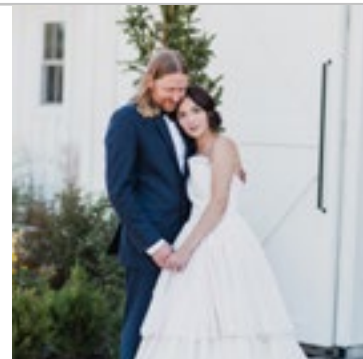
Its time for the bride to get into her dress! I HIGHLY recommend using this time for my specialty "moments before I do" shoot, more on that later! I usually ask the mother of the bride and all of the bridesmaids to be dressed by the time the bride is ready to get into her dress. This ensures that everyone will look nice if they are a part of those images.

Some clients choose to do their formal photos before the wedding day and therefore have already had their first look! If thats the case for you, just use this time as padding incase anything is running behind or to get you a little ahead of schedule! You could also consider doing a first look with your dad, bridesmaids, sisters, ect.

First Look 15 +



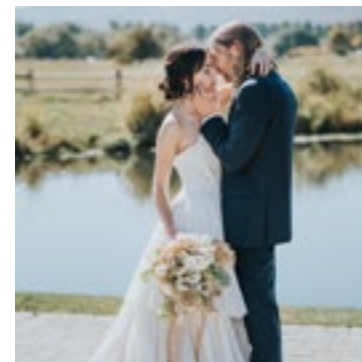
30 + min- Bridal Prep



This is one of my favorite parts of the wedding day! I will find the perfect location for my couple's First Look prior to the getting ready portion of the day! Don't stress about that one bit! I will make sure the location is private and as secluded as possible.

The TIMELINE! I know this isn't the most exciting aspect of the wedding day, but this is the one thing that can make or break your photography! Lighting is everything in a photo and certain times of day are much better for photos! These pages give you an idea how long everything will take! This ideal timeline is also based off of a wedding day that includes a first look. 90% of my couples choose to do a first look, and you can read more about that option a few pages over! Remember that all wedding days are different, and your timeline may differ due to travel times and unique situations.

Portraits 30 + min-

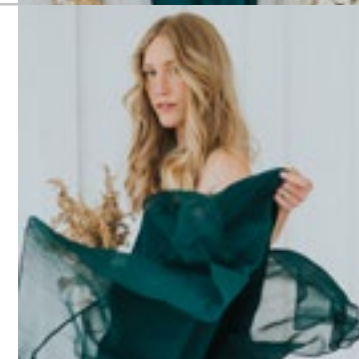


After the bride and groom take their time with the First Look, I will take a few romantic portraits of the two of them while the initial excitement is still present! I will find the locations for these shots as well! Remember, the LIGHT determines where we shoot and so I can't decide on portrait locations until the day-of. As we shoot these portraits, the bridal party can start making their way to us for Bridal Party portraits!

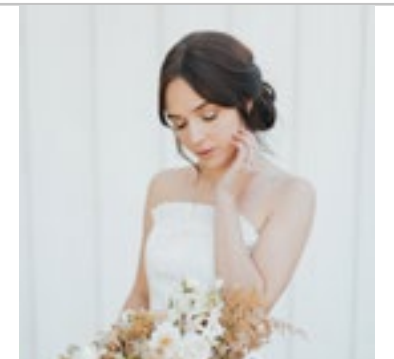
Bridal Party Portraits 30 + min



After bridal party portraits are complete, the bride will go into hiding so that early guests don't sneak a peek, and the ushers will begin their duties. During this time, ill go grab a few shots of the ceremony site untouched!



Now it's time for Bridal Party shots! I buffer in extra time throughout the day just in case something unexpected holds us up! One way to make sure we stay on schedule for bridal party portraits is to have someone put the boutonnieres on the guys BEFORE they arrive for portraits and ask everyone to be there a few minutes early!



5:30-6:00 Bride in Hiding

THE TIMELINE CONTINUED...

Group & Family Photos

30 minutes

Group and Family photos take place immediately following the ceremony because ALL family members will be present at that time.

That's it! You are married! Now go take a breath, go enjoy the dinner or reception youve planned and remember to have a great time! I'll still be working hard to capture the rest of your day but I wont be directing you for it!



Ceremony
30 + min



I will send you my go-to group shot list so you dont have to worry about making one, but of course you can add or take away any shots you want. I recommend shooting portraits outdoors so that they resemble more natural family portraits, especially if the ceremony location is dark!



The importance of hiring a second shooter

I'm no stranger to breaking a sweat on wedding days! I work HARD to capture as much as I possibly can on your wedding day! But there is still a lot that will go undocumented if I dont have a second shooter. I simply cant be everywhere at once and there are A LOT of moving parts on a wedding day! For this reason, a second shooter is included in most of our packages! The only reason its not included in ALL of my packages is because I try to create some package options that have a few things cut out in an effort to help with the budget. If your budget allows, or even if you can get creative and make room in the budget, I highly recommend packages that include second shooters! You wont regret it, I promise! A few

key parts of the wedding day that can only be captured when I have a second shooter, are:

- The Groom and his guys getting ready
- The reception space and details UNTOUCHED. An untouched reception space photographs far better than a reception space full of people! I can send my second shooter to get these details while Im shooting other important parts of the day and before the reception starts!
- The ceremony site UNTOUCHED
- I can also utilize my second shooter to increase my efficiency and speed up timelines! ill shoot the bride with her girls while the second shooter gets the groom with his guys!

LDS Temple weddings are a whole different ball game! The timeline looks pretty different, so it gets its own page just incase YOU fall into this category!

LDS Temple Wedding Timelines

Arrival at the Temple



I'll photograph you as you exit the temple for the first time as a married couple! I recommend that if the temple has two doors, you exit at the same time, both opening a door, instead of one leading the other out. Stop and kiss, then take in all the love and support from the people there to support you and say hi!

Group and Family Portraits

I will lead us over to start the group and family photos after you've had a minute to say hi to everyone outside the temple.

A Few "Just Married" Portraits



Reception Time!



I LOVE photographing grand exits! Whether you have flower petals, confetti, a balloon release, sparklers, or even just friends and family cheering, it's one of, if not the only time you will be literally surrounded by friends and family cheering you on! So go slow so you can soak it all in and so I can get great photos of it all!

Most temples will have you out of the temple between 45-60 minutes after your sealing, but I'll arrive 30 minutes after your sealing time. Better early than late, right? I'll photograph the temple and your guests while we wait for you to exit the temple!



Your Temple Exit



We'll need 30 minutes for group formals. I will send a list of my typical group shots so you can add or take away any groupings! I'm known for helping this part of the day run smoothly and pain-free! If everyone listens up and stays put, we can get through group portraits in a breeze! We will do the bridal party in this time as well!

Temple coverage always includes 20 minutes of formal photos of you two around the temple grounds!

If you want those beautiful getting ready photos, we can do this before your reception! Most venues have a getting ready room and I can come to the reception nice and early to grab shots of you doing some touch ups before the reception!

I prefer to have about an hour before the reception time to photograph your reception space untouched and without people in the background! Then during the reception I'll shoot you and your guests mingling, grab some rings shots, etc. There is always plenty for me to shoot at receptions!

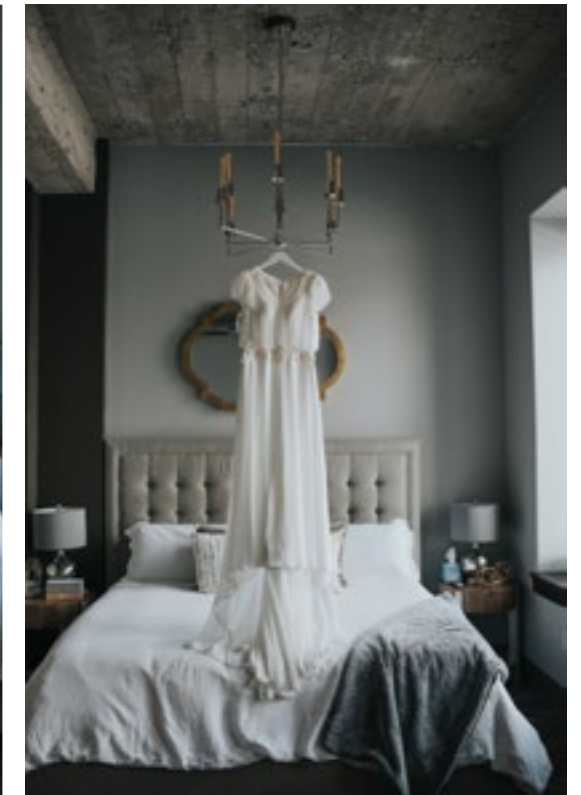
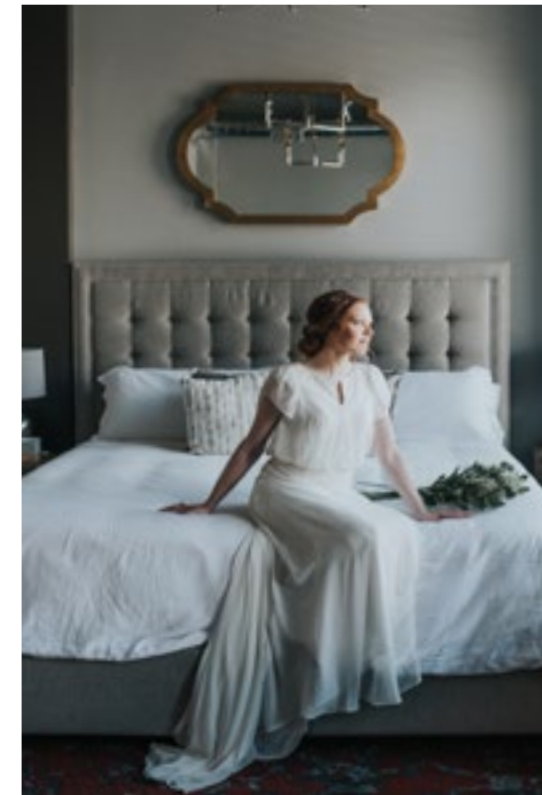
If you want additional family formals before the reception, let's plan on about 30 minutes for that, assuming everyone will be present! If your family is running around setting up the reception, it may take us longer since we will have to track people down!



The Exit



PRECEREMONY



Let the day begin!

This portion of The Wedding Experience really sets the stage for the entire wedding day. The next few pages will share tips and tricks that will ensure a seamless morning of bridal preparation and beautiful portraits!

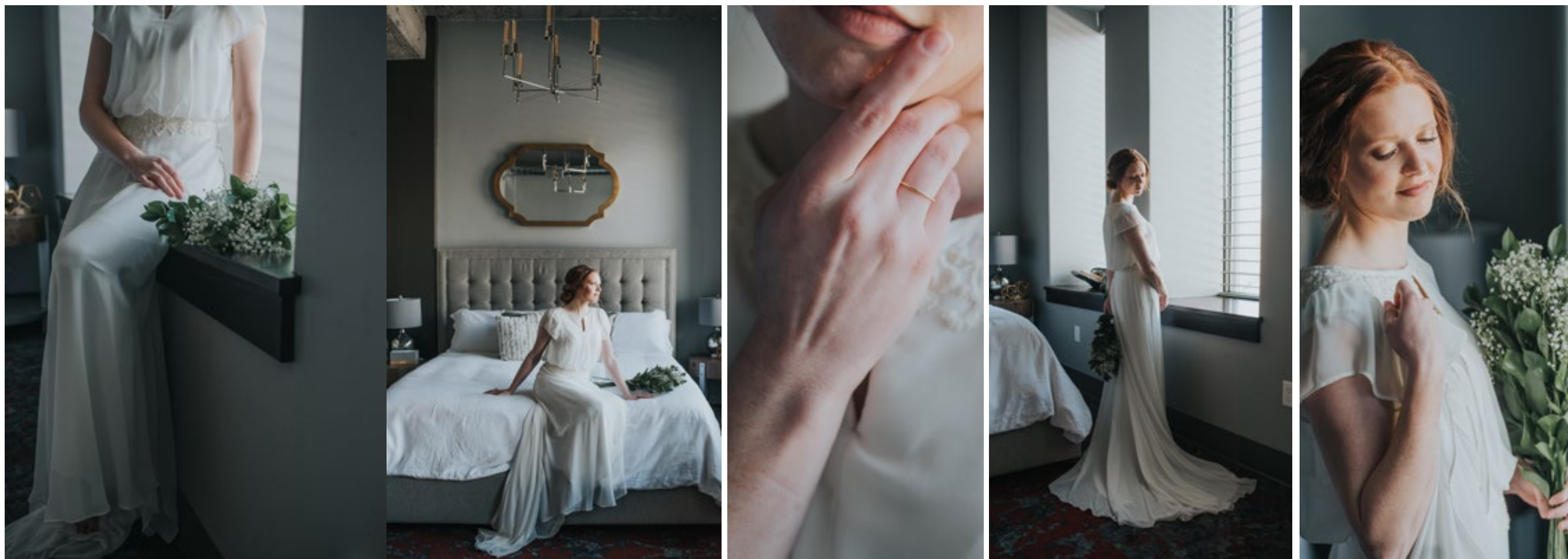


GETTING READY

It's the morning of your wedding! Hopefully all of the little details are taken care of and you're relaxing with your best friends while your hair is being done. Delegation is a key part of a stress-free wedding day. I know it's hard to hand over the decorating duties and all of the last minute things that need to be done, but it really is important to relax the morning of your wedding. The rest of the day is going to be fast paced and filled with a lot of emotions! Take advantage of this down time! There are a few things to consider about the "getting ready" portion of the day. Do you want to share a "first look" with your dad or any other person who plays a big role in your life? Hint: I think you should! More about this on the 'moments before i do' page!

Are there certain people in your life who would appreciate seeing you get into your gown? Some brides love having sisters and bridesmaids present! It's totally up to you! A few other things to consider.... as you get ready to put your dress on, refrain from putting any jewelry on. I love shooting all of those final steps of you putting your jewelry on once you're in your gown! Now, every bride is different. Maybe what I just described, having lots of your loved ones around, helping get you ready, sounds like your dream come true! But maybe for others, it sounds overwhelming and stressful to have so many people around. If you are looking for a calmer approach, you may be interested in my 'moments before I do' set up!





The Moments Before I do Session

Its no secret that a wedding day can be stressful. But this is one of the most important days in your life. You should enjoy it. You should remember it. You can't do either of those things if you are stressing about timelines, and trying to please everyone around you. You need a minute to breathe in the middle of the chaos. Insert the 'moments before I do' session that I've crafted specifically to give you a minute of downtime and get in the right head space before you go and say 'I do'. After your hair and makeup is done, lets ask your bridesmaids, sisters, and anyone else hanging around the bridal room to step out. Pick one person who is special to you to help you get into your dress.

You'll be amazed at how much calmer the room becomes when we ask people to step out for a minute. Plus, by asking them to step out before you get the dress on, it allows you to have a special moment with them later when you reveal your completed bridal look! After you are in your dress, that same person, or someone new that we bring back in can help you get your jewelry on. Then I ask for about 5 minutes alone just you and me. I'll photograph you in your getting ready space as you breathe and get in the head space to walk down the aisle and say "I do". Its a big moment and it deserves to be documented. Then we can do your 'first look' with your bridesmaids, sisters, dad, or anyone else that is excited to see you as a bride for the first time!



THE Bridal Room

Keeping your bridal room tidy allows us to use the entire space to create beautiful images. This image would be totally different if curling irons were plugged into the wall, clothes were scattered. Just ask the people getting ready with you to keep their things tidy and we can do a quick pick up before we start photos! Also, having large windows in the bridal prep area allows me to create beautiful portraits with soft light. I prefer natural light so the more windows, the better! Keep that in mind when booking your venue!



EVERY LITTLE DETAIL

RINGS, SHOES, JEWELS ...

The whole day begins with the DETAILS! This is one of my favorite parts of the wedding day, because it allows me to prepare and get my creative side warmed up for the rest of the day! I photograph a bride's details in a way that matches and showcases the style of the entire wedding day. So, in some ways, the details set the stage for the look of the whole wedding and I love having ample time to stylize, and shoot everything from the dress, to the jewelry, to grandma's handkerchief! To the right, you'll find a list of the most common details that I shoot. I ask brides to gather any details they have before I arrive so that I can walk in, say hello, give you a big hug and then begin with all the goodies!

WHAT TO BRING



dress
veil / hair pieces
rings (all three)
shoes
bouquet & bout
jewelry
perfume
invitation suite
borrowed & blue
vows

DAY-OF REMINDERS



GATHER the goods.

If possible, collect all of your details before I arrive so that I can begin quickly and have more time for some “getting ready” shots of you and your girls!

EXTRA elements.

Sometimes, depending on the theme and “look” of the wedding day, there may be some extra elements that you could include when you gather your details. For example, if you’re having a garden themed wedding, you could include herbs or flowers. If you’re having a rustic themed wedding that includes some wooden elements, maybe save a small piece of wood for me to use when I’m shooting your rings and jewelry. This REALLY makes for beautiful, consistent images.

KEEP all three rings.

The most common detail missing when I arrive are the rings! Moms, officiants and planners will tell you to hand over your wedding band to the best man before the day begins. However, it’s actually better to hand it over during the bridal party portraits so that I can shoot some great ring shots in the AM! If you forget, no worries, I can always shoot the ring shot at the reception if there is extra time!

BRING the bouquet.

Don’t forget the Bouquet! Have the bouquets and boutonniere delivered to the bride before the first look so that she can have her bouquet in her portraits. Don’t worry if it’s hot, we’ll be sure to keep it in water as much as possible before the ceremony!

When you're planning a wedding day timeline, the best advice I could give is to ADD CUSHION TIME! Sometimes the most simple things can take an extra 20 minutes and then all of a sudden, the whole morning is thrown off. Heaven forbid we have a broken button that has to be sewn back onto the grooms suit! It's a smart idea to add in an extra ten minutes here and there so that we have some wiggle room to work with! This way, if one part of the day gets thrown off by 20 minutes, I can help you compensate that time in other areas. There are so many different things to think about when you're planning a wedding day, and so here are some tips for the preceremony timeline! I realize that every single wedding day is different and so not all of these tips will apply to every wedding day schedule. Something else to consider is that not EVERYTHING will go as planned, and I promise you, that is completely normal!



TIMING TIPS



BOUQUETS AND BOUTS

You will need your Bouquet & boutonnieres for your First Look! Have them delivered to the room where the bride is getting ready.

TRAVEL TIME

Be sure to think about the travel time and TRAFFIC to and from your getting ready location and your venue!

HAIR & MAKEUP

I encourage brides to have at least their makeup done before I start because who wants a ton of shots without their makeup on? Nobody.

GROOMSMEN PREP

My second shooter or I will photograph the guys getting ready if they are getting ready in the same location as the bride or within 10-15 mins.

GETTING IN THE DRESS

I'll instruct you to get into your dress close to a window. It would be good to have whoever is helping you into your dress be dressed when you're getting in your gown!

CREATE A CUSHION

A 10 minute cushion every now and then is a GREAT idea! It's amazing how fast time slips away the day of!



VEIL OPTIONS

I recommend that the bride consider only wear her veil when she comes down the aisle. I recommend this for three different reasons.

1. This is something new for your groom to see when you're walking down the aisle! 2. A lot of times, during a First Look, the groom is so excited to see his bride that he accidentally pulls the veil out when he throws his arms around her! And 3. Saving the veil for the ceremony ensures that I will get some "Just Married" portrait time with the couple because EVERY bride needs to have a "Veil Blowing in the Wind" shot of their own! This isn't a rule that we ask all brides to follow, it's simply a suggestion that we make!

THE BRIDAL BOUQUET

There are so many expenses when it comes to wedding planning. Many brides have to prioritize what they want to invest in. I just want to give a little tip that can save money and make a huge impact on the way your images turn out. If you're having trouble making a decision about your florals, here is what I suggest. I recommend making your bridal bouquet a big priority! When I'm photographing a wedding, if the bride has a gorgeous bouquet, I can make the entire day look like there were beautiful florals everywhere! I can use the bridal bouquet to spruce up bridal details, reception details AND even bride and groom portraits as well! The bridal bouquet is a focal point for me when it comes to your photography, and so I highly recommend getting your DREAM bouquet and investing less on the bridesmaids bouquets since they will not be photographed nearly as much!



A full-page background image showing a bride and groom walking on a brick path in a garden. The groom is on the left, wearing a dark suit and brown shoes, looking down at the bride's hand. The bride is on the right, wearing a white lace wedding dress with a long train and a white veil, looking back at the groom. They are walking on a brick path that curves through a green lawn. In the background, there is a wooden pergola with climbing plants and a dense line of trees. The lighting is soft, suggesting late afternoon or early evening. A small rainbow-like lens flare is visible in the upper left corner.

YOUR FIRST LOOK

Your first look is an amazing part of your wedding day! If you aren't sure about this tradition, the next few pages will explain why it would be a romantic addition to your wedding celebration that not only adds to the experience but also reduces stress. Please know that we would never want any of our couples to feel pressured to go with this option. However, we do want to make sure that we share all of the benefits of a first look, because there is a reason 90% of our couples do this



THE FIRST LOOK explained

I have encouraged a first look for pretty much every bride ive ever worked with! There is a reason for this - they're AWESOME! However, not everyone is aware of how awesome they are, because they get caught up in how "non-traditional" it is, and they immediately write it off. Some brides love "traditions"... but what a bride REALLY wants when it comes to her groom seeing her for the first time, is a special moment. Those who are not interested in a First Look usually think that by seeing each other beforehand, they will lose part of that moment. They also assume that it will not be as emotional or as intimate as it would be if they were coming down the aisle. What I have found is so ironic! Everyone knows that wedding days are a bit stressful for the bride and groom. The whole day is focused on them, they need to look their best, they need to be on time, the groom has no idea what side the boutonniere is supposed to go on and little by little... the tension grows. It's before the ceremony and the gravity of what is about to happen starts to sink in and the calm, collected groom who was playing golf just a few short hours ago is

With clammy hands, the groom enters the ceremony and what does he find? he finds lots of people and they're all looking where? Right at his face... because everyone has expectations and anticipation about his first reaction. This is the farthest thing from a private, intimate moment. Talk about pressure! I always feel so bad for grooms knowing how much pressure they must be feeling with all eyes on him at this moment, waiting to see how he will react.

Now picture this instead. We do a first look with just you and your soon to be spouse (as well as myself and the videographer, of course. But I promise to be respectful of this moment and not insert myself. I'm just there to document it for you guys!) You both feel free to express whatever emotions that you may be feeling. Uninhibited by wanting to hold back, no pressure to react a certain way. Then, because youve had your first look when it MAKES SENSE in your day, you get to spend the rest of your day together instead of being kept apart. We can do more portraits of you two together whenever it works best in the day instead of having to wait and cram everything in after the ceremony.

For most grooms, the nerves kick in before they see their bride because when they see her, everything becomes VERY real! So when the nerves start creeping up, instead of keeping the groom in a secluded space until his time to enter the ceremony, what if you took him to a private place... no people, no on-lookers, no distractions.... and you let his beautiful bride, the love of his life, quietly call his name and have him turn around to see her for the first time. He would turn around and finally get his first look at his stunning bride and not only would he get to see her... he could embrace her... cry with her.... kiss her... and ENJOY that moment with her for as LONG as they wanted. As she shows him her dress, twirls a few times and then asks him what he thinks... his nerves start to diminish. After all, she's the one who can make him most comfortable anyway.

Because they aren't on a time crunch... they casually move into their romantic portraits. No one is around, the coordinator isn't announcing "15 minutes left", and there is no pressure. It's just the two of them and their photographer.... capturing the excitement and the joy of their wedding day. This is their time to be TOGETHER... and to be ALONE. When does that happen on a wedding day? Without a First Look.... it doesn't. After their romantic portraits are done, they meet up with their best friends. Their bridal party joins them and because they still have plenty of time to spare... the bride touches up a little

There aren't any guests waiting impatiently at the cocktail hour and there isn't a DJ coming to find the photographer to get a time check. It's wonderful!

After portraits are done, the girls and guys separate and prepare for the ceremony. The guests begin to arrive and the ushers are in place. Pretty soon it's time for the processional music to begin and one by one, the bridesmaids make their way down to the front of the ceremony. As the groom clasps his hands... they aren't clasped out of nervousness but excitement. The music builds, the mother of the bride stands and all of the guests follow her lead. The groom looks up, and here comes the BRIDE! His best friend, his companion, his sweetheart.... and instead of feeling nerves, he just feels relief.



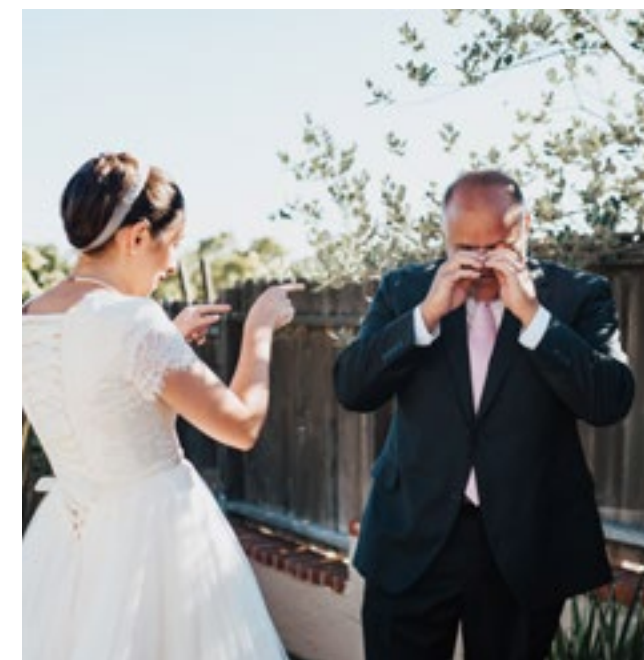
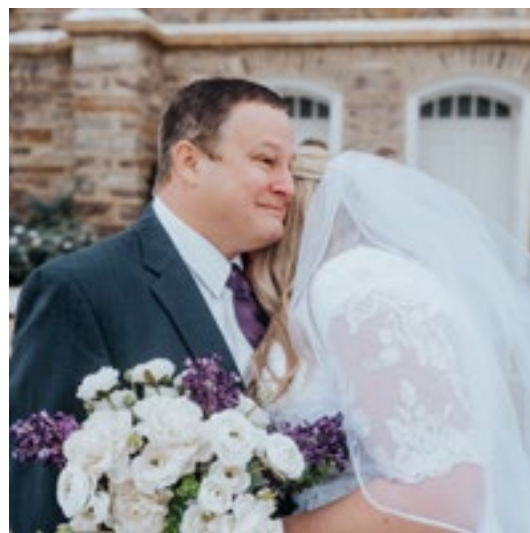
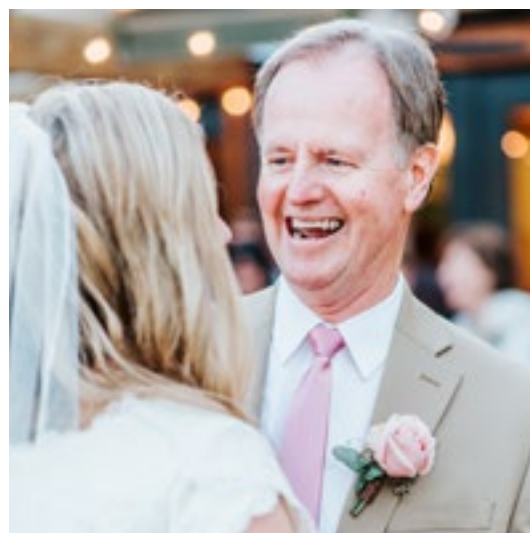
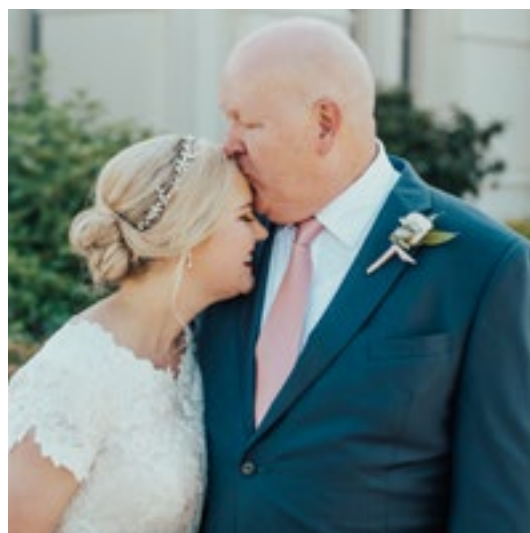


FOR THE BRIDE

FIRST LOOK

EXPECTATIONS

Brides , if you have never seen your man cry or get emotional, you can't expect him to be overly emotional on your wedding day. Some guys just embrace their brides and never cry.... and that's OK. Some guys show very little emotion when their bride is coming down the aisle and that's ok too. Just enjoy this amazing day, and try not to put any expectations on him. If you take this advice to heart, I could potentially be saving you a lot of disappointment on your day. One thing we have noticed after shooting close to 200 weddings is that the stress and nerves that come with a wedding day can sometimes make it hard for some grooms to truly express their emotions. It's just a lot to take in all at once. This is a great reason to share a first look and also a great reason to give some grace to your guy! Sure, you deserve to feel beautiful, but my encouragement to you is to enjoy this time together, no matter what his reaction is like!



The Daddy / Daughter

FIRST LOOK

This is for all of the brides who have a sweet spot in their heart for their dad. I have to admit that Daddy/Daughter first looks make me a little teary. For a lot of dads, this is when everything feels real and it hits him... "My baby girl is getting MARRIED!" These are precious moments to photograph and I highly encourage any daddy's girl to make time in their timeline for this moment. It doesn't take long at all! The hardest part is making sure dad shows up on time! If dad doesn't show up on time, the whole timeline can get thrown off, or we'll have to skip the daddy/daughter first look. Another sweet idea we've seen is having the father of the bride escort the bride to her first look!



THE CEREMONY

Here it is! The moment everyone has been waiting for! The bride is about to walk down the aisle to the love of her life. Vows will be shared and promises will be made... this is what the day and all the planning have all been about! In a world full of wedding blogs, Pinterest and bridal magazines, it's easy to be overwhelmed and consumed by the "prettiness" of the event. While details do matter and planning is necessary, it's important to never lose sight of the real purpose of this amazing day! Don't stress about the ceremony being 'perfect'. Breathe. Relax. As long as you both have a ring on your finger at the end, it went exactly as it was supposed to. My favorite weddings to shoot have been where the couple is giddy with excitement and emotion, not stiff, still and perfect the entire time.

For My LDS Brides

Your Temple Exit

You did it! You are married and exiting the temple to a group of cheering family and friends is the first time you get to be introduced as husband and wife! There are few times in life that you get to literally be surrounded by your friends and family cheering you on and celebrating with you, so soak it all in! Come out together, not one after another. If there are two doors, each take a door and come out at the same time. Sometimes a temple worker will try to get the door for you, but politely ask if you can just get the door yourselves, otherwise those sweet workers will be in your photos until the door closes. Come out, and if you are comfortable, give each other a big kiss before you go give hugs and greet everyone. Just take a minute and enjoy saying hi to everyone, I'll keep an eye on the time and keep us moving when its time for group photos on the stairs.



Romantic Portraits

If we're being honest, all of the wedding day images are important, but the real favorites are almost always from my time with the Bride and Groom! These romantic portraits of just the two of you will be the images that you frame beside your bed or over your mantle, and they will also be the images that will fill your album for generations to enjoy. These images are always my favorite not only because of their beauty, but because this is such a sweet portion of the day. For this brief moment in time, you will be alone with your groom on your wedding day. You will have a chance to love on each other and really connect before the craziness begins! Romantic portraits are normally done before the ceremony (after the "First Look") and then I LOVE shooting a few "just married" portraits after the ceremony as well! This is when the light is low and golden! It's such a romantic time for bride and groom portraits! If you're not interested in a first look, we will make sure to include a lot of time after the ceremony for these portraits!





LIGHTING

Ceremony lighting is really important. If you get married outdoors, or if you are exiting the temple at 12pm, the lighting will be extremely harsh. Not only will there be harsh lines of light and shadow on your faces, you will also be squinting. I suggest planning an outdoor ceremony 2 hours before sunset if you are having a FIRST LOOK. If you are not interested in sharing a first look, then I would suggest having your ceremony 3 hours before sunset to ensure that you will have plenty of time for all of your portraits afterwards. The lower the sun, the more romantic the lighting. If you are having an indoor ceremony, it is always best to have EVEN lighting at the altar. If there are two spotlights on the bride and groom, I will not be able to expose the rest of the bridal party. It is better to have soft, even light across the whole altar.

Customize the Ceremony

I have seen so many couples do so many AMAZING things during their ceremony. Lighting candles, sharing wine, a flash mob dance as they came back down the aisle, ect. As you plan your ceremony, make sure you design it to be exactly what the two of you envision it to be. This is your day! If you have the freedom to be creative, then by all means, be creative! My favorite wedding of all time included the bride and groom jumping into the pool after their ceremony and after all the photos had been taken!

PROGRAMS & DETAILS

Providing a program or having a schedule on display helps your guests know what to expect, which leads to fewer people feeling stressed or asking you when the cake cutting will be, when dinner is or when the dancing will start.

If you are opting to print a program, keep in mind that not every person in attendance will take a program. You don't want to end up with tons of extras! Also, before ordering your programs, have SEVERAL people check it for spelling and grammatical errors. Programs and the ceremony decor are things that the bride can plan in advance but then delegate the actual job of setting it up to a friend or coordinator.

COORDINATION

Hiring either a full event planner or just a day-of coordinator is SO helpful! Brides realize very quickly that if they do not have someone in charge of the coordination of the day, that responsibility will automatically fall on the mother of the bride, the photographer or the BRIDE! When a photographer is in charge of the timeline and the coordination of the day, the images will suffer. All of my most stressful wedding situations were caused by a lack of organization and coordination. It's so important to make this a priority. If you need any recommendations on wedding coordination services I would love to share some of my favorite vendors with you! Plus, this takes the pressure off of your family and friends so they can celebrate!

DESTINATION Weddings

If you are planning a destination wedding, a lot of the details in this guide will not apply to you! Your details, your timeline and even your preparation for the big day will be much simpler. However, it is a good idea to start thinking about a few key components of the day such as: your ceremony time and your ceremony/portrait locations (some destination weddings require some planning to find portrait locations without tourists in the background). Be sure to check the sunset time at your wedding location before settling on your ceremony time. As your wedding day draws closer, we'll begin to chat about the timeline of the day and the travel arrangements. Get excited! This is going to be amazing!



Sample List

FAMILY FORMALS



I love meeting my couple's families on the wedding day! Family formals are normally my first interaction with them and so I love to have a game plan for this part of the day! When we do your consult, I'll send you my go-to list of family and group shots so that we can keep this part of the organized and moving efficiently. I always get compliments on my ability to take control of this part of the day and make it pain free! You can, of course, add or take away any groupings you'd like. I'll make sure to use my loud voice so that everyone knows I'm in charge and no one tries to add any unwanted shots and waste time!

THE CASE OF A RAINY WEDDING DAY

One of the most frequently asked questions that we receive during wedding season is “Soooo, what do you do if it RAINS?”. I want to reassure you that even if it rains, you will still have beautiful portraits! I know that rain isn’t ideal, and no bride would wish for rain on their big day, but if it happens, it happens..... and it’s going to be JUST fine! Some of our best weddings have been on rainy wedding days! Here are a few things to remember:

1. All I need to create natural light portraits on a rainy wedding day is a porch! Just one porch!
2. Let me worry about the pictures. You have enough to think about. If there is a chance of rain, I’ll be sure to do some extra scouting to find a covered location or two, for us to use for you first look, romantic portraits and bridal party portraits.
3. Take it one step at a time. Don’t think about your entire day and what will happen if it rains. That will only overwhelm you! Definitely have a rain plan for your venue, but then let your vendors do the work of handling the rest of the day if rain is in the forecast.





your bridal party.

Let's chat about your bridal party! I know from experience that all brides want their closest friends to have an AMAZING time during their big day, and I will make sure that happens! Bridal party portraits should be a ton of FUN! After you share your first look, depending on the locations and the timing of the day, your bridal party will join us for portraits! If all goes well, we will be able to accomplish ALL of your bridal party portraits BEFORE the ceremony. This means that your guys and gals will be free to mingle at cocktail hour if they wish! If there are flower girls and ring bearers involved, they can either join us for the pre-ceremony portraits or we can take one final group photo after the ceremony, before family formals. Be sure your groomsmen arrive with boutonnieres on, and your bridesmaids arrive with bouquets!

RECEPTION DETAILS



Receptions can be a blast! So make sure you plan the reception in a way that you get to participate in the party instead of being stuck in a receiving line half of the night. I love receptions where there are no lines. I see my couples actually enjoying the celebration that they spent so much time, money and effort planning. I see them having engaged conversations with people rather than feeling like they have to rush through a quick greeting because the line is getting long. Instead, host a social hour where you can mingle, play games, sit down for a minute and enjoy! If for whatever reason you would prefer to do a line, be sure you set a start and end time and tell your guests. Include the start and end times of the receiving line in the invitation so that people know what time to be there in order to get to participate. When you are 15 minutes away from the end time of your receiving line, have someone stand at the end of the line to inform newcomers that the line is closed. No matter what you do, be sure to ENJOY and CELEBRATE!

Much like the ceremony, you have the freedom to make your reception your own! It's your party, it should be exactly how you want it to be! Here is a list of some key events that happen often at receptions:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| - Bridal Party Introductions | - Welcome by Father of the Bride |
| - First Dance | - Blessing |
| - Daddy-Daughter Dance | - Cake Cutting |
| - Mother-Son Dance | - Toasts |
| - Anniversary Dance | - Bouquet and Garter Toss |
| - Money Dance | - Large group portraits with friends |
| - Traditional Religious Dances | - The exit of the Bride and Groom |

RECEPTION TIPS

The fun has begun! It's time to relax, dance and celebrate! Your reception should be a BLAST! The last thing you need to be worrying about is your timeline. Your coordinator and DJ should take care of making sure that everything stays on schedule so that you can enjoy your night. Here are some tips that will help your reception flow smoothly.

- **GUEST CONSIDERATION** : Take your guests into consideration when planning your timeline. If you have a lot of elderly guests that will not be staying until the very end, make sure you schedule the cake cutting at a relatively early time so that they can be a part of it. Grandma's love seeing this sweet tradition!

- **KEEP IT MOVING** : Chat with your coordinator about how you can plan your reception in a way that will keep guests engaged and moving all night!

- **MAKE IT YOUR OWN** : If you want to have a special dance with your grandparents, do it! Make your reception a reflection of who you are and don't feel tied to traditions. Also, make sure you give your DJ or Band a "Do Not Play" list if there are some songs you really don't want to hear during your reception!

- **DON'T GET CAUGHT UP** in the formalities and the details. Sure, details are pretty and fun to photograph, but they can steal the joy of the day if you get too caught up in them. This should be a celebration, not an event you produce to impress other people. Plan your centerpieces, welcome table, etc. well before the wedding date, and teach your coordinator or family friend how to set them up so that you aren't even thinking about those things the day of!

- **RECEPTION COVERAGE** : If you haven't purchased enough coverage time for your photography to last until the exit, that's ok! If things get behind on the wedding day and it's time for us to leave but you still have events you want documented, we are happy to stay and invoice you for the extra time we spend! I recommend planning your timeline so that you can have at least one hour of dancing photographed. The guests who dance during the first hour will still be dancing in the third hour! One hour of dancing will be enough time to really capture the joy of your reception!





RECEPTION: CONTROLLED EXITS

Exits! If your coverage ends before your exit, you have the option of planning a faux exit with your bridal party! This is more common than you may think. Instead of saving your exit until the very end, you can plan a faux exit with just the members of your bridal party and a few family members! This allows us to have more control over these shots and the party NEVER has to stop! In most cases, no one even notices that the bride and groom are missing for a few minutes! Also, it's almost impossible to tell that the whole wedding party isn't there waving sparklers and sending off the happy couple! I dare you to look at my blog and see if you can pick out which exits were fake and which were real! This idea allows our couples to save money and still have all of the shots that they dreamed of!





YOUR ONLINE GALLERY

Years ago you had to order prints of the images that you wanted to have forever. That isn't how we work around here! We want you to have ALL of your memories in your possession forever and ever! We also want you to share your images freely and without any hesitation. This is why we deliver your images via an online gallery! This means that you don't have to wait on a package in the mail, and you'll have access to them wherever you are! I've listed some important information that will help you understand your online gallery and all that it can do on the next page! Enjoy! :

DOWNLOADING PHOTOS:

You will be able to download your edited images directly from your online gallery, and they will be high resolution! This process is very simple! All you have to do is click the download icon that looks like an arrow coming out of a cloud and you will be asked if you want to download all the images or just the ones you favorited by clicking the heart icon. You'll enter your email address and then the system will send you an email with a link to download the images! If you opt to download the entire gallery, you will be notified via email when your entire download is ready. It takes a few minutes to prepare for hundreds of images to be downloaded!

ORDERING PRINTS:

You can actually order professional and affordable prints from within your online gallery and have them shipped directly to your house! There are a variety of print sizes and are printed in a professional lab to ensure color and contrast accuracy! You are more than welcome to print images on your own. However, I would warn you to avoid Walmart, Target and Costco. I cannot promise that your colors will print true-to-life if you choose to print at those stores.

SHARING, WATERMARKING & EDITING:

You have the freedom to share your images in any way that you choose! These are your images, and I want you to love them so much that you can't help but share them! We don't believe that it is necessary to watermark our images. All we ask for is some type of credit whenever you use an image on social media! We only have ONE rule when it comes to what you can and cannot do with our work. We always ask our clients not to edit their images. Let us do that hard work! However, if you have an image or two that you want to print at a very large size and you find an imperfection, we will gladly perfect it!



Thank you!

Last, but certainly not least, THANK YOU for trusting us with your special day. We are so hoored when we get to be the ones capturing your memories and we cannot WAIT to celebrate alongside of you! Enjoy this season of planning but also remember that your MARRIAGE is more important than the wedding. The wedding will come and go in a matter of hours but your marriage needs to stand the test of time. Continue to make time for one another, even with all that needs to get done. As you continue to plan, please feel free to contact us with ANY questions you may have along the way!