



Tonya Malay
PHOTOGRAPHY
Fun, Stylish & Innovative Images

Wedding Day Tips

*Don't forget your marriage license!

*I do not recommend glitter lotion or spray, or glitter accessories. Glitter will look like green specks on your skin and also sticks to men's clothing and will look like green and white specks on their jackets. Glitter removal is subject to an additional retouching fee.

*The newest trend is glitter sand for sand ceremonies (*sigh*). I cannot stress enough how bad this is. The glitter will literally cover both of you from head to toe. If you are planning a sand ceremony, please make sure there is no glitter in the sand.

*If you have a dress with buttons, remember to bring a crochet hook. It's super helpful!

*Plan to have everyone's hair and makeup done 60 minutes prior to my arrival time. That way, if you fall behind schedule for any reason, you'll still be ready for photography when I arrive. Be sure to give this target time to your stylists so they can schedule accordingly. Also, please plan to have a purse or bag handy throughout the day with your touchup makeup including lipstick, powder and/or blotting papers.

*Grooms: Have an extra shirt and tie in case you sweat a lot (Florida can be hot!) or someone spills wine on you (happens all the time). It's also nice to have the option to change into a fresh shirt for the reception.

*Brides and bridesmaids: Be flexible with your hair style. If it's a particularly windy day, you might reconsider wearing your hair down near your face. I recommend walking outside prior to your hair appointment to see if your hair is blowing and adjust your hairstyle accordingly. Keep in mind that photoshopping hair is sometimes not possible, or extremely expensive, especially if it is blowing across your face.

Most importantly, do your very best to BE ON TIME

If we fall behind schedule, I can never get this time back. I will have less time to capture your portraits and this will also limit both creativity and the amount of portraits that are captured. This can also be stressful for the couple and their families and wedding party. Please make an effort to be ready when I arrive so that we will have plenty of time to capture some beautiful images in a relaxed atmosphere.

Unplugged Ceremony

I highly recommend having an unplugged ceremony. In this digital age, friends and family are becoming more proactive in photographing wedding ceremonies. It is understandable that they are excited to capture a few memories. However, beautiful moments are being ruined by digital devices in the background of these images due to guests standing behind the couple or leaning into the aisle with their iPads, iPhones, and cameras raised in the air. Also, guests and family members are looking at the images on their devices instead of watching the couple during the ceremony. These images can be very unemotional.

If you love the idea of an unplugged ceremony, here are a few things that you can do to tastefully request that your friends and family refrain from photography during the ceremony:

1. Have the officiant make an announcement at the beginning of the ceremony.
2. Put both a request in your program and also on a sign that guests will see when they arrive to your ceremony site.

Sample Wording for Programs & Signs

Credit for wordage (I have made a few edits): OffBeat Bride (www.offbeatbride.com)

*We would love for you to enjoy our wedding ceremony, feeling truly present and in the moment with us. We have hired an amazing wedding photographer who will be capturing the way the wedding looks, and we invite each of you to sit back, relax, and enjoy how the wedding feels. We are respectfully asking that everyone consider leaving their cameras and cell phones off. Of course we will be happy to share our wedding photos with you afterward.

*We would love for you to be able to relax and have fun with us today. With this in mind, we invite you to put down all of your favorite devices and just be present in the moment with us. Please leave your camera in your bag (we've got photography covered), and put your cell phone on mute (we promise they'll call back). We're happy to share our professional wedding photos later, but the greatest gift you can give us today is just being fully here with us in this sacred and special moment.

Sample Wording for Officiants

*General: (Couple's names) have asked that you share in their wedding fully and emotionally and not through the lens of a camera or cell phone. The professional photographers will be capturing the ceremony in its entirety. Please sit back, relax, and enjoy the emotion of the ceremony.

*Spiritual: (Couple's names) respectfully request that all guests honor the sanctity of their wedding ceremony by turning off their cell phones and cameras. The professional photographers will be capturing the ceremony in its entirety.

*Emotional: (Couple's names) invite you to be truly present at this special time. Please, turn off your cell phones and put down your cameras. The photographers will capture how this moment looks and (couple's names) encourage you all to capture how it feels with your hearts, without the distraction of technology.

Here is the link to a cute sign from Offbeat Bride:

<http://media.offbeatbride.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/6/files/2013/11/unplugged-template-1-obb.pdf>

Please remember that, as your photographer, it is not appropriate for me to ask your guests to stop taking pictures. The request for an unplugged ceremony should come from the couple.

Thank you so much and I look forward to working with you and your friends and family on your special day.