

TIMING GUIDELINES

Bridal Details 30 mins



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 30 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, My second shooter will begin photographing the boys close to 40 minutes before the first look since it always takes them less time to get dressed!



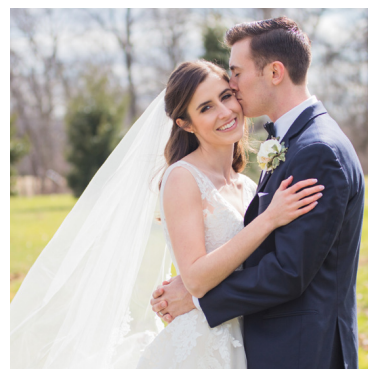
1 hour Bridal Prep

After the details have been photographed, it's time for the bride to get into her dress! 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. After the bride is in her gown, she can put on her jewelry, veil, shoes, etc. and I will shoot some additional bridal portraits!

First Look 5-10 mins



Portraits 30 mins



After we take our time with the First Look, I will begin taking a few romantic portraits of the two of you 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. If you are not doing a first look, portraits will happen after family formals are done.

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.

Here's the page that can be somewhat intimidating! 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! These next two pages will outline an average wedding day with ideal timing for each event. This ideal timeline is also based off of a wedding day that includes a first look. Many 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.



No first look Alternate option



Bridal Party Portraits 30mins

Now it's time for Bridal Party shots! I buffer in extra time throughout the day just in case we have some unexpected things that hold us up! I will make sure to get great shots of the guys and girls both separately AND together!

If you decide to take the traditional route and not do a first look, NO PROBLEM! We will take our time with getting ready photos, and I'll focus on getting lots of bridal portraits, as well as take care of all the photos of you with your girls, while my second takes care of the groom's portraits and some fun photos with his guys. You will need to factor in an hour after the ceremony, usually during cocktail hour, for your formal portraits and bridal party shots.

Family Portraits 20-30 mins



Ceremony 30mins-1hr

It's time to get married!! Most ceremonies are 30 minutes to an hour long. Cherish these moments! Your ceremony will pass by so quickly!



We'll need about 20-30 minutes for family formals and I will send a document before the wedding where you can list out the shots that you want. Most often family portraits are taken at the front of the church, but if the light is nice and you have a good outdoor location closeby, I would recommend natural light because they will resemble real family portraits that you will be more likely to frame.

THE TIMELINE CONTINUED...

Reception! 2-3 hours



This is when the bridal party lines up for introductions and the party begins!! By this part of the day, my timeline isn't as strict. Once the sun is set, portrait time is over and I can begin focusing on the reception events!

Golden Hour Portraits 15-20 mins



About 15 minutes before sunset is the BEST time of day for portraits in the late spring, summer and early fall! This is when the sun is glowy and golden. I love having a few extra minutes with the bride and groom to take a few portraits sometime before or during the reception.

The Exit

My most common package includes 8 hours of coverage so that I can be present for the main events of the reception and about an hour of dancing! If you're interested in having your exit photographed, there are several options for this! You can either add additional coverage or plan a faux exit with just your bridal party! We have had good success with this and the party never stops!



TIMING TIPS



GETTING IN THE DRESS

I'll instruct you to get into your dress close in an open room with lots of natural light and it would be fabulous to have your bridesmaids 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!



Sample List

FAMILY FORMALS

I absolutely 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! Eight weeks before the wedding, you'll receive a questionnaire from me that will ask you to list out the family formals you want us to capture. Here is a sample family formal list to help you start preparing what shots you need. We do have to limit the family formal time in order to ensure that we have plenty of daylight for your romantic portraits. However, any large family group shots that we don't accomplish during family formals, we can be sure to capture at the reception!

B&G with Bride's Immediate Family

(Parents, Siblings, Grandparents, Nieces, Nephews)

B&G with Bride's Parents

B&G with Bride's Siblings

Bride with her Parents

Bride with Mom, Bride with Dad

B&G with Bride's Grandparents

B&G with both sets of Parents

B&G with Groom's Immediate Family

(Parents, Siblings, Grandparents, Nieces, Nephews)

B&G with Groom's Parents

B&G with Groom's Siblings

Groom with his Parents

Groom with Mom, Groom with Dad

B&G with Groom's Grandparents

B&G with all family members if time allows

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 helpful 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 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!

- **CREATE A FLOW** : Chat with your coordinator about how you can plan your reception in a way that will keep guests engaged and moving all night! If you have group shots that you want to get taken at the reception, talk to your DJ about announcing those during a break in the music sets, or right after a formal event, so it doesn't break up the flow of dancing, and you can make sure to get everyone all at once!

- **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!

- **RECEPTION COVERAGE** : If you haven't purchased enough coverage time for your photography to last until the exit, that's ok! We have several options! (See next page!) 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!

- **LIGHTING** : For the best photo results during your formal dances, it's best to ask your coordinator to keep the lights turned up, and ask the DJ to refrain from using any colored lights until the dance floor is open for everyone. When photographing things like the first dance and parent dances, there's nothing worse than a green spotlight right on your face!!

- **VENDOR CONSIDERATION** : To help us do our jobs efficiently, we ask that you tell your event coordinator to feed us as soon as the bridal party has been served, in order to ensure that we can eat quickly and not miss any of the evening's events! This also allows for us to get mingling photos of you with your guest tables, which won't happen if we are fed last.