

TIPS ON BUILDING YOUR

Wedding Day Timeline



This guide is meant to serve as a resource as you build your wedding day timeline! This will allow your photographers adequate time to capture all of the special moments on your wedding day. Each section will explain what we are photographing and how much time we prefer to photograph each part of your wedding day. Please feel free to share this information with your wedding coordinator & other vendors as needed.



Getting Ready Photos

45 minutes to 1 hour to shoot details

After checking in with you when we arrive, we will begin with photographing your wedding day details.

Please have all items for detail photos assembled together before we arrive. We will capture detail shots of your dress, shoes, jewelry, flowers, wedding invitation suite, all rings together (bride & groom's), your wedding day fragrance, & any other sentimental items you'd like included. When you speak with your florist, please ask if they can include a few blooms for your photographers for these photos - they usually don't mind!

Please be sure to bring a nice hanger for your wedding dress. As hair & makeup finishes up, we will include getting ready candids throughout this time.

We should be starting getting ready photos about 3 hours before the ceremony.



45 minutes to 1 hour - photos of bride getting ready

At this time, your bridesmaids and mom are now dressed, ready to help the bride step into the dress.

Photos captured during this time: Candids of Bride Dressing, Portraits of the Bride alone, posed candids with bride and bridesmaids & bride with mom.

If the bride and groom are exchanging gifts or letters, please have someone from your bridal party prepared to bring these to each person during this time so we can capture photos as well.

Please let us know if you would like to plan for a first look with dad at this time.

30 to 45 minutes - photos of groom & groomsmen

Photos of groomsmen helping the groom straighten his tie, some posed portraits of the guys together, posed portraits of the groom alone, photos of any gifts or letters being given, etc. **Please arrange someone to deliver and pin boutonnieres for groom and groomsmen.



We can reverse bride and groom photos as needed but it will depend on getting ready locations of bride and groom.

****Important**** If bride and groom are getting ready in separate locations we must include time for the photographers to travel between locations. Ideally, starting with the bride completely getting ready, then heading to the groom's location, then ceremony location for photos of the ceremony space.

Keep in mind that these are some of the most emotional and fun times of the day, so you don't want to cut it short.



First Look

30 minutes

One of our favorite moments of the day! This is where the Bride & Groom opt to see each other for the first time with no one around BEFORE the ceremony. Typically a secluded or semi secluded location is needed to keep this private. While the actual first look might only be 5-10 minutes, the rest of the time is spent on a few basic portraits of the bride and groom.

****Please arrange to have bride's bouquet and groom's boutonniere for these photos****

***Please note:** If you decide you are NOT having a 'First Look', this time slot could be used for Candid photos with your bridesmaids, or mom & dad etc., or for traveling to ceremony if needed.

Let's talk all this through together!

Travel Time - as needed

If your event is not all in one location, don't forget to CALCULATE and ADD to your timeline the travel time to ALL VENUES

(Remember: There is Regular Time and then there is WEDDING TIME, be generous to allow for traffic!) ;)



Arrival & Seating of the Guests

30 minutes

Bridal party is now tucked away until the ceremony.

Ceremony

30 minutes to 1 hour

Consult with your clergy for their timeline.

***Bonus tip -** please ask your officiant to take a big step aside just before the first kiss so that the photo is just of the two of you ☺

Cocktail Hour & Portraits

1 hour

Posed portraits with closest family, friends, and then the bride & groom!

Family Formals

20 to 30 minutes

After the recessional, your guests will release to cocktail hour and we will jump right into family photos. We take family photos at this time of the day so that we can guarantee we have everyone needed. Family formals do not have to take over 20 minutes. However, this is only possible if we are organized beforehand. I will send you a list to come up with your preferred family portrait groupings.

For the sake of time, unless the bride & groom ask, we will not deviate from this list. We like to keep this very organized. We will work directly from your list of groups and it is *helpful to have helpers from each side of the family who know names to help round people up*. Please designate one or two people to help with this in advance, maybe a bridesmaid and groomsman.

Bridal Party Photos

15 to 20 minutes

We will take photos with your bridesmaids and groomsmen immediately after family photos. They will stick around with us as we take family photos as they may be in both groupings. We will take photos of your whole group, photos of just the guys, just the girls, and individuals (bride with each girl, groom with each guy). If you'd like to capture any other special photos during this time, please let us know beforehand, otherwise we will then dismiss your bridal party to cocktail hour as we move on to bridal portraits!

Bride & Groom Portraits Alone

25 minutes

This is when we will get the best photos of you two, the newly married couple! Ideally at this point in the day we will be within the two hours before sunset (aka: golden hour!). This is our absolute favorite time for portraits and when we will take your canvas-worthy portraits of just the two of you!

This is a great time to enjoy some moments alone, and during this time we will provide posing tips to get those gorgeous photos!





Reception Photos

3 hours

Every reception flows differently, and I highly recommend working with your wedding coordinator & DJ to come up with your perfect reception timeline! Below, you will find a suggested outline of reception events.

Introductions of Bridal Party

First Dance - Bride & Groom

First Dances (dad & daughter, mother & son)

Blessing / Welcome Speech

Dinner

Toasts & Cake Cutting

Bouquet Toss

Grand Exit

Your photographers will take a short break to eat out of sight of your guests during dinner. Please let us know if there is a private area at your venue where we can step away to eat.

Our 8 hours of coverage allows us to capture all the parts of the day leading up to your reception, the main reception events, then about an hour or two of dancing.

Are you planning a grand exit?

Let's chat about this in advance too! This is something we love to photograph! You can either add additional coverage or even plan a faux exit with just your bridal party! We have had GREAT success with this and the party never stops!



*I hope this guide helps as you build
your own wedding day timeline!*

A few other tips...

Here are a few other miscellaneous tips to help in your wedding timeline planning!

01

Getting Ready

Please plan for plenty of extra, extra time for hair & makeup - this is typically the thing that will set timelines behind. Make sure there is as much natural light in the room where you will be getting ready (window light) as possible. This makes a WORLD of difference in your images! I promise! Please also have your bridal party try to keep this picture-taking area clean and free of trash.

02

Planning a Sparkler Exit?

I recommend: a coordinator (either your day of coordinator or a responsible family member/friend) to unwrap sparklers, (be sure to order the long ones!), gather multiple lighters, a bucket of sand or water to put the used sparklers out in, & can help the photographers coordinate the lineup. This is one of our biggest wedding day tips from experience! This way you two can enjoy your evening and exit, not stress over finding a lighter :)

03

Our Biggest Tip?

Relax and have fun!! You're getting married!! Try to plan as much as you can in advance, and then when the day finally arrives, let go and enjoy! Try to find pockets of time throughout the day where you can soak it all in as a couple. If you need anything, just ask! We are here for you.