

the

WEDDING GUIDE



Madelyn
SHAYNE
Photo & Film

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Whether you are still dreaming up the details or already counting down the days, we are so honored you are here. We offer both photography and cinematic film coverage designed to preserve your wedding with intention, artistry, and heart. Every moment is documented in a way that feels natural, romantic, and true to **you.**

This guide was created to help you feel confident, prepared, and fully present as you plan your wedding day hopefully leaving you feeling supported, informed, and with every question answered along the way.





Hi sweet friend ♥

I truly cannot tell you how excited I am that you're here and that you're considering trusting me with something as meaningful as your wedding day. It is never lost on me what an honor it is to document memories that will be held onto for generations.

This guide is here to give you a deeper look into what it feels like to work together, from the flow of your wedding day to the experience I carefully design for my couples from beginning to end. Instead of little bits of advice here and there, I wanted to give you a full, thoughtful resource that helps you feel confident, supported, and genuinely cared for throughout this entire journey!

Because photography and videography is so much more than showing up with a camera and hoping for the best. It's about preserving emotion, honoring your story, and creating space for you to be fully present in every moment. I take your experience, your memories, and the images we create together very seriously and it would be such an honor to capture your day with the same care and intention that first inspired me to pick up a camera.

I'm so grateful you're here!!





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The
WEDDING
DAY

Here's my creative and logistical experience with the big day...

This section is me sitting you down and saying, “Let me tell you everything that I know!”

Over the years, I have been so blessed to be part of many wedding days. From the quiet moments of getting ready to the final send off, I am not just showing up with a camera. I am fully present, learning the flow, emotion, and little in between moments that make each celebration unique.

And if I am being honest with you, the magic of a photograph comes from two things. The artist behind the camera and the environment we create together in front of it.

The most breathtaking images often happen when beautiful light is present, when a space feels intentional, and when moments unfold naturally. Relaxed photographs come from relaxed timelines. Romantic images come from romantic environments. It is never about perfection or budget. It is simply about being thoughtful with the experience you are creating.

Of course, my job is to create something beautiful no matter what. I want to help you create space for moments that feel effortless and true to you. I do not just want to deliver photos, I want to create imagery that feels like your very best memories, preserved with care.

I want your jaw to drop when I send you that “Here are previews!” text.

That’s why I’m handing this to you. From my experience with shooting weddings, here’s everything I’ve learned, everything that I can promise you works well and doesn’t, the things that make it hard and the things that make it easy, what to expect while working with me, and everything in-between! I want to send you the absolute BEST VERSION of my photography that is worth every single penny you spend and every single hour you prepare. In order to do that, I need your help!! :)

SO—YOU READY
TO DO THIS THING?
Let's do it!





LET'S START AT
THE BEGINNING
OF YOUR DAY.
IT'S ONE OF THE
MOST SPECIAL
MOMENTS OF
THE ENTIRE
WEDDING DAY.





GETTING Ready

Estimated Photo Time: 1 - 1.5 Hours

Getting ready photos are always some of my absolute favorites. Some people skip them to cut down on time, but I would not recommend skipping them! The beginning of your day, while you get your makeup done, your hair done, your dress on, etc... it's so special and creates the most stunning photographs with your closest friends and your family. Especially when adding a wedding film, it is such an essential part of telling the story.

THE START OF THE DAY

Keep in mind that wedding days often start slow and a bit off schedule. So give yourself time to let that happen without stressful time constraints! If you can, try to have a getting-ready space and time set aside for each group beforehand. This can sometimes be a point of conflict for wedding parties when no one knows exactly where and when they are supposed to be ready. Setting those expectations beforehand is so helpful!

CHOOSING A SPACE

Try to choose a getting ready space that has as much natural light (windows) as possible, is uncluttered, and has bright and neutral (white is best) walls! This will ensure that elegant, bright, bridal look! So as an example: try a naturally lit master bedroom instead of a cluttered basement. Or, ask your venue if they provide you with an official bridal suite, at least for the girls! As much as possible, stay away from rooms with no windows, or fluorescent lighting, or small space/low ceilings.

Try to make sure that you and your bridal party members do your best to keep the space clean of messy makeup stations, tons of hair products, etc... The cleaner the space is, the more YOU will stand out in your photos!

THE PRE-FIRST LOOKS

Brides, thinking of doing a first look with your bridesmaids? DO IT! It's so worth it. Even if it's just them seeing you in your dress for the first time. They can leave the room while you get your dress zipped up (by your mom or MOH, maybe?), and then we'll call them in and I'll capture their reactions!

If you have a parent (or a sibling, friend, mentor) that is extra special to you, do a first look with them! It will mean the world to them! These are the photos that always make me the most emotional!

The DETAILS

When I arrive, the first thing I will often ask for is your details so I can take detail shots! I try to make sure that this part is not rushed, because even though these might not be the most important photos of the day, they are still so meaningful!

PREPARE THE DETAILS

If you wouldn't mind, please prepare all your details you'd like photographed, and keep them prepared in one designated spot! This creates a seamless start to the day, instead of trying to track down each detail! These details can include:

- **Both wedding bands, and engagement ring.**
- **Wedding bouquet and extra florals if you have them**
- **Official wedding invitation, save the date**
- **Both pairs of shoes.**
- **Groom's tie, socks, belt, etc...**
- **Wedding Dress/Veil**
- **Perfume**
- **Jewelry**
- **Something old, new, borrowed & blue**
- **Anything else for desired photographs.**



Est. Time: 15 Mins



The First Look & PORTRAITS

FIRST LOOK IDEAS & TIPS

A "First Look" means taking a special time to see your partner for the first time all alone (and I'll be there to photograph and/or film it!). This moment usually flows directly into portraits of you two together!

Whether or not you do a First Look is up to you! If you'd like one, I will walk you through this process on wedding day! First Looks create an easier flow of the day to have your photos before the ceremony as opposed to after the ceremony and before the reception. On top of that, many brides and grooms are immediately less stressed when they finally see their partner instead of waiting until the ceremony. But it is up to you!! There is no right or wrong choice here, it simply comes down to what feels most meaningful to you both.

Best of both: if you want to wait to see your partner when they walk down the aisle, try a blind first look or some call 'First Touch'! I'll bring both of you together while wearing a blindfold or just touching hands. You could even read your vows during a first touch.

Personal Tip: Write your partner a sweet note and/or get them a gift, and then give it to them at your first look! If it's a note, bring it, and then read it aloud to them! Or, some couples read their vows aloud to each other at their first look! It's always so sweet to bring something to exchange or read to each other during this moment, and it creates truly meaningful photos and the perfect audio for your film!

CHOOSING A LOCATION

I will be sure and scout the best locations for a first look, couple photos, and bridal party photos on wedding day, and I will be sure and find the best possible places, but don't be afraid to think outside of the box with these! If your wedding venue doesn't provide some incredible scenes or backgrounds, look at what is near that location! Maybe there is a gorgeous open field nearby! Maybe there is a beach just 20 minutes away! Maybe the prettiest forest is a 10 minute walk down the road! Or ask me for ideas! Don't worry - we will easily fit the travel time in! :)

Est. Time: 1-1.5 Hours



When you think of the lighting, you're going to want to try for the early morning or the late afternoon for most photos. The harsh, unflattering lighting (especially if it's sunny) is between the hours of 11am and 1pm, so try to schedule the majority of your outdoor photos before or after those hours! Or, try to make sure there is some shade at your venue where we take photos!



BRIDAL Party

For bridal party photos, don't forget to take it all in! This is one of those rare moments where you are with your absolute best friends, and not just one of them, but all of them in one place at the same time! Instead of getting caught up in the typical "boring" bridal party photos, take a second to enjoy the company, and just be your fun selves!

LOGISTICS AND AESTHETICS

It's super important to make sure your entire bridal party knows where they need to be, and when they need to be there. Often something that can be forgotten at this point is the girls' bouquets or the guys' boutonnieres, so it's good to remind everyone to have their personal florals with them/on them.

It's super helpful to me if you can have some idea of what you want for your bridal party photos if you want something unique! Otherwise, my standard go-to bridal party shots are: formal shots, fun/candid shots, and individual shots (example: Bride with each bridesmaid). I would highly recommend individual shots with each person standing up on your side. These are so nice to have for the future, for posting on social media, and just for having a solid shot of you and each friend that you have!

As stated before, try to keep these photos outside of the 11am to 1pm harsh lighting of the day, if possible! Especially with that many faces, it's hard to keep unflattering shadows and backlighting to a minimum during that time of day. Also, shade is GREAT! If your venue or shooting location has lots of shade, that is so helpful!

Est. Time: 30-45 Mins



FAMILY *Photos*

These might not be the most “artistic” part of the day, but for most people, they are still very important! So let’s talk about them...



PREPARE BEFOREHAND

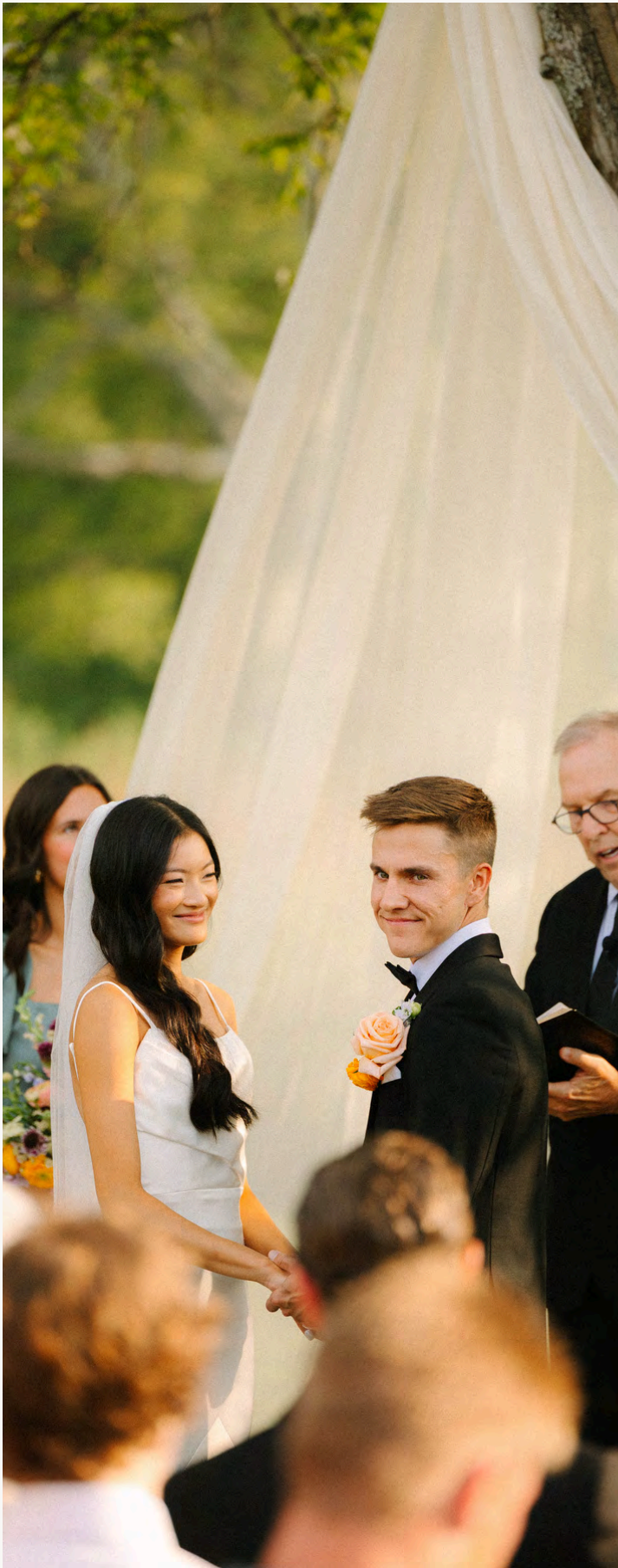
It helps me greatly if you know, in advance, exactly the photo combinations you want for your family photos. I always recommend that you write out a list of all your desired photographs with combinations of family members, and send it to me before the wedding day! I will bring that list with me!

If certain family members are desired in photographs, make sure each one of them is informed of exactly where they need to be and when they need to be there for family photos.

Try to emphasize the family and friends that mean the most to you during this time. These photos are meant to be meaningful, not overwhelming. I always love capturing a beautiful generational photo like you, your mom, and your grandma together. Moments like that become incredibly special over time. Do not feel pressured to photograph every extended family grouping if it is not something you will truly cherish or use. One big group photo is always an option! Focus on the people and connections that matter most to you and we will make sure those moments are documented with intention.



Est. Time: 30 Mins



The CEREMONY

The moment we've been waiting for! Here's a tip: Before the ceremony is a sweet time to just calm down, and find some peace and quiet before the ceremony and reception. So, keep your favorite people close, take a deep breath, and enjoy the calm before the party!

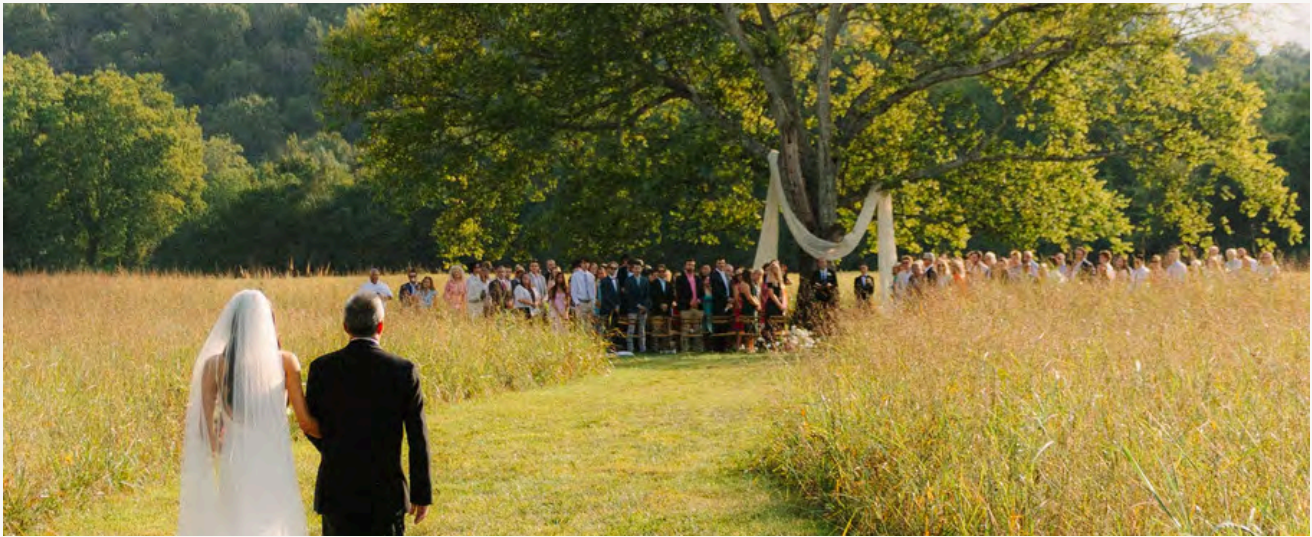
Est. Time: 30-45 Mins

BEFORE, DURING, & AFTER

You will want to block off 30 minutes of "do-nothing" time before the ceremony for you and your bridal party to hide away while guests arrive and the music starts. I will help build that into your timeline!

Most ceremonies take around 30 minutes, or some religious services can take up to a full hour! So, just make sure you allocate enough time to that part of the day, and keep your officiant informed on how much time they are given to perform the ceremony!

Directly after the ceremony, have a nice designated room or outdoor space where you and your partner (and then your bridal party) can go right after the ceremony is finished. This moment is probably one of the most special and emotional of the entire day! (This was my favorite part of my wedding day!) You just got MARRIED and you're sharing your first moments together as a married couple! So, don't hide yourselves in a random dusty, dark room! I would highly recommend making intentional time and space for this moment!



IF YOUR CEREMONY IS OUTDOOR

I love outdoor ceremonies! If you're holding your ceremony outdoors, keep in mind the possibility that it may rain, and try to have some sort of back-up plan in mind (even if that simply means bringing umbrellas). As far as lighting goes, it is CRUCIAL to hold your ceremony afternoon hours. Once again, 11AM-1PM is the time frame you want to stay away from! Ideally, make sure the sunlight is coming in from behind the altar of the ceremony, not in front of it. Or, if there are many trees nearby, place the ceremony space under the shade of the trees. This will avoid harsh shadows on people's faces and unflattering image tones from direct sun!

IF YOUR CEREMONY IS INDOORS

If you are holding your ceremony at an indoor venue, natural lighting (windows) is going to be your best friend! I can work with any lighting, but if I have to depend on my artificial light (camera flash) for the lighting, the photos of your ceremony will not match my normal style that you have seen from my work! And a flash can be distracting during a ceremony. Try to avoid incandescent lighting directly above your head on the ceiling, as this creates harsh, unflattering shadows on the face while you're walking down the aisle or saying your vows. Avoid at all costs any sort of fluorescent lighting. Indoor ceremonies can be beautiful, but natural lighting is highly important!

AND
THEN
WE
PARTY.





The RECEPTION

That's right...now it's time to partayyyy! This is the time of the day that gets so fun, and I genuinely want you to remember the celebration of it all! Here's a few logistical and lighting related tips to remember as you are planning your reception!

LOGISTICS AND TIPS

Try to set a time for your reception to officially begin (which usually starts with your grand entrance with your bridal party), and then stick to it! This will ensure that your reception doesn't feel like it's "delayed" for your guests, and it won't keep them waiting around longer than they expected, so they will be more likely to stay for the whole thing!

Personal tip: The classic events of a reception are so fun! First dances with your new spouse, or one of your parents on either side are always so special, and you will absolutely love and cherish those photos. These first dances are the PERFECT way to start the open dancing. If guests see the head couple out there dancing, they will want to as well!

And cut that cake! Cake cutting photos are so playful/special, so make sure and schedule it into your reception time! Keep in touch with your DJ so they know when to announce this!

MINDFUL OF LIGHT SOURCES

Once again, natural light is going to be so important for reception photos as well. If you are celebrating in a big barn, try opening the barn doors and windows to let that light pour in. For indoor venues, keeping curtains or blinds open can make a huge difference. If possible, have your head table facing toward the light rather than having it behind you so your faces stay bright and glowing instead of backlit. Open air receptions or tents are always beautiful options too. And do not worry, I will also bring additional lighting and spotlights to help enhance the atmosphere and make sure everything still looks romantic and well lit once the sun goes down.

Est. Time: 3-5 Hours





SUNSET *Photos*

You know that glowy, soft, romantic light that hits right during the last hour of the day's sunlight? Yeah, it's pretty incredible. Without a doubt, I always recommend sunset photos of the married couple. These are often past clients' favorite photos of the day!

Madeline

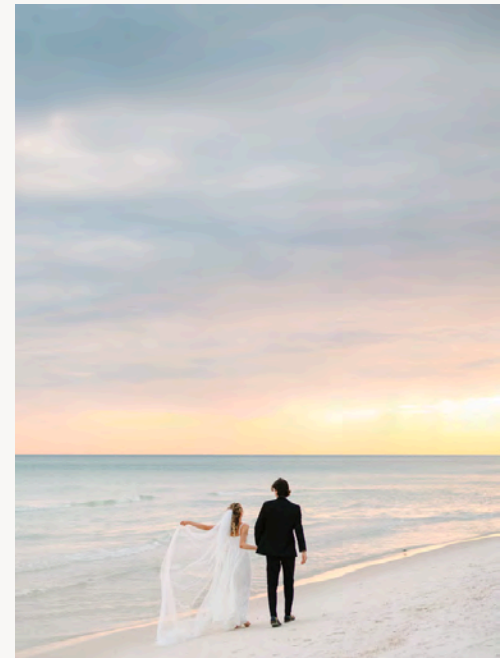
Depending on when the sunset is on your wedding day, this moment of the day is the hour or half-hour before the sun officially sets on the horizon. We'll have to be mindful that, if there are tall trees or mountains are nearby, the sun will "set" behind those about a half hour before it sets on the actual horizon. I'll keep my eye on it! During the planning process, I will also look up the exact sunset time for your date so we can choose the best moment with the most beautiful light.

It is so nice to take photos at this time of day, not only because of the lighting, but because the responsibilities of the day are over, you both are far more relaxed, and all that's left is the love and the joy!

"HOW DOES THIS WORK?"

Good question. I can absolutely come grab you two during the reception while guests are busy mingling, eating, or dancing. We usually do not have to go far to find beautiful light, and we will sneak away to the prettiest nearby spot for a few relaxed portraits. The whole thing typically takes about 10 to 15 minutes before you are right back to celebrating.

For summer weddings or earlier ceremony times, another great option is to take these portraits right after the ceremony and before you enter the reception. That way you can enjoy more of your evening without stepping away later.



SEND-off

Estimated Time: 15 Mins

This is obviously an optional part of the day, but it is also so special if you decide to have me there for send-off photos! Especially when you think of receiving a full wedding gallery, send-off photos can provide the perfect book-end to your memories of the entire day, and these shots always perfectly encapsulate the celebratory energy of the wedding and all your guests!

For send-off photos, wedding guests can form a line that you can walk through that leads up to your getaway car! This can take place after the ceremony as you two take off for the reception (if it is at a second venue), or it can take place at the end of your entire wedding day when you and your spouse take off for your honeymoon!

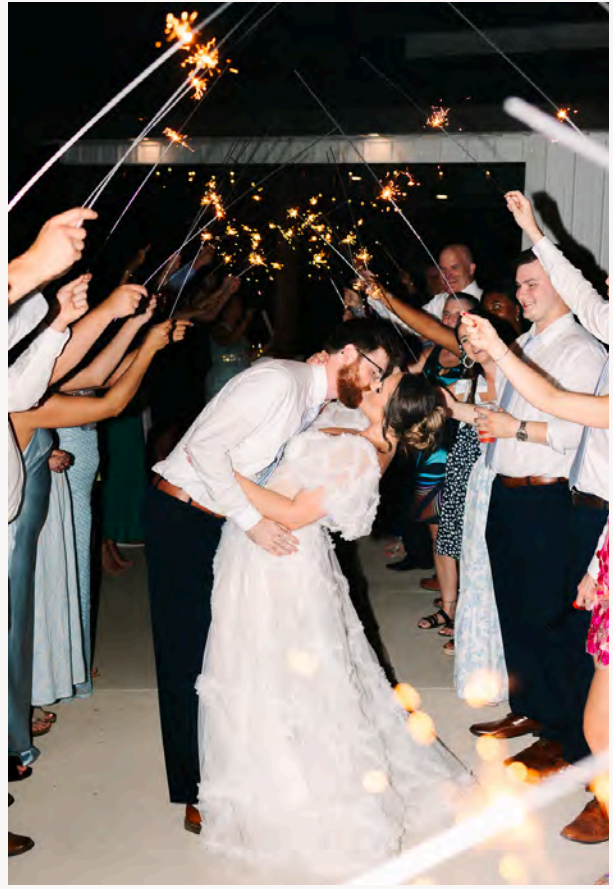
SOME IDEAS AND TIPS

If it's going to be dusk or completely dark during your send-off photos, sparklers are always the best option! Make sure you get the long-lasting sparklers as well, so they aren't quick to burn out!

If it's going to be still light during your send-off photos, there are so many options: bubbles, rose petals tossed in the air, ribbon streamers, biodegradable confetti, etc...

If you know someone with a unique or vintage car, see if they'd be willing to let you borrow it as your getaway car!

If having a send off is important to you, I always recommend planning it while a good number of your guests are still there so the photos feel full of energy and celebration. Some couples choose to do a "photo exit" a little earlier in the evening if they want the look of a big send off without ending the party too soon. And if you would rather wait for the real moment later in the night, that is absolutely fine too. We can plan it in whatever way feels most natural for your timeline and the experience you want.





HERE ARE SOME *FULL*
SAMPLE *TIMELINES*...

with a first look
Sample
TIMELINE 1

1:00 PM	Fully ready. Final touches, getting into your dress, and relaxed getting ready moments.
1:30 PM	Bride portraits and details.
2:00 PM	First Look with your groom Couple portraits
2:45 PM	Bridal Party Photos Bridesmaids Groomsmen
4:00 PM	Downtime
4:30 PM	Immediate family photos before the ceremony.
5:00 PM	Hideaway for ceremony
5:30 PM	Ceremony
6:00 PM	Cocktail Hour Begins Just married hugs and candid moments. Extended family photos if needed
7:00 PM	Reception begins! Grand entrance and welcome. First dances Dinner
7:45 PM	Sneak away for sunset portraits.
8:00 PM	Cake cutting
8:15 PM	Dance Floor Opens
10:00 PM	Exit

without a first look
Sample
TIMELINE 2

1:00 PM	Fully ready. Final touches, getting into your dress, and relaxed getting ready moments.
1:30 PM	Bride portraits and details.
2:00 PM	Bridesmaids Photos Photos with Bride's Family
2:30 PM	Groomsmen Groom Getting Ready Photos with Groom's Family
4:00 PM	Downtime
4:30 PM	Immediate family photos before the ceremony.
5:00 PM	Hideaway for ceremony
5:30 PM	Ceremony
6:00 PM	Cocktail Hour Begins Extended family photos if needed. MAIN COUPLE PORTRAITS
7:00 PM	Reception begins! Grand entrance and welcome. First dances Dinner
7:45 PM	Sneak away for sunset portraits.
8:00 PM	Cake cutting
8:15 PM	Dance Floor Opens
10:00 PM	Exit



The AESTHETICS

Color, style, and functionality tips for your wedding day...



TRUE *to* YOU

When it comes to aesthetics, styling, and colors, I want to be careful not to impose too much opinion, because it's YOUR day! Above anything, above trends, above Pinterest or Instagram telling you what to do with your day, the most important tip I can give is to **make this day feel like you**. And based on what feels like you, this section is how I can guide you best with those fundamental stylistic choices you've probably already made! Sound good?

CHOOSING YOUR VENUE(S)

I will keep venue advice short and simple because most couples already have their space chosen by the time they reach out, and options can sometimes be limited. But if you are still deciding, here are a few gentle things to keep in mind:

Look for a space that has beautiful natural light. Outdoor venues are always lovely, and indoor venues with large windows or open doors tend to photograph in a softer, more timeless way. Light really helps create that romantic, true to life feel you see in my work. And if outdoor portraits are important to you but your venue does not offer many scenic options, I always recommend having a nearby backup location in mind. This could be a garden, open field, historic building, or quiet spot just a few minutes away that we can easily travel to for portraits without adding stress to your timeline.

At the end of the day, choose a venue that feels like you. The right atmosphere will always matter more than following a perfect checklist.



LOCATION, *SEASON*, & STYLE

My main advice is, try to choose selections that blend well with three main things: (1) location of your wedding (2) season of the year (3) style and vibe you've chosen for your wedding as a whole.

LOCATION SPECIFICS

Because almost all of the weddings I shoot involve naturally lit or outdoor venues, it's best to stick with earth tones and light, neutral colors. Bold, primary-esque colors are going to look out of place in an outdoor setting. Muted or forest greens, sky blues, warm rust or golden or burnt orange tones, beige, white and off-white, browns--these are all colors ideas that will blend so incredibly well with an outdoor venue!

If your wedding is more indoor, I would say the same thing for colors, but I would be mindful of the main colors or neutrals (if any) of your indoor venue, and then select colors/neutrals that blend well with it!

SEASON SPECIFICS

If your wedding is in the later Spring, Summer, or Fall, you have a bit more freedom with color! Obviously, you want the colors to make some sense with the season in which your wedding falls. So especially for autumn, it might be best to look at the autumn colors and choose something that would blend well with autumn color!

If your wedding falls between the months of November-March, I would be extra mindful of your color selections. Oftentimes, winter landscapes are naturally more dull (color-wise) during those months, so it's AMAZING to add some pops of color if your wedding is within that time of year!

Quick tip: brides, make sure you and your bridesmaids come prepared with coats or shoulder coverings for winter weddings!



STYLE SPECIFICS, EXAMPLES, & TIPS

Firstly, let's talk about making it cohesive. This probably goes without saying, but it's best if all the decor, venue, outfits, etc. all look like they flow well together! Don't overthink this too much, but I'll try to give some quick examples:

When choosing attire for your wedding party, think about how everything feels together rather than selecting each look separately. If your bridesmaids are wearing relaxed, flowy, or romantic dresses, consider styling the groomsmen in textured suits, lighter fabrics, or thoughtful details that complement the overall aesthetic. When both sides share a similar mood and style, your photos will feel cohesive, intentional, and beautifully balanced.

Your florals are one of the easiest ways to create harmony throughout your wedding design. A beautiful place to start is with your dress. Notice the feeling and details it carries whether it feels soft and romantic, timeless and refined, or modern and minimal. From there, lean on your florist's expertise and gather inspiration that reflects that same mood. When your florals echo the style of your gown, everything naturally feels cohesive, intentional, and beautifully connected.

If you are holding your wedding outdoors, or at a natural-esque venue, be mindful to choose a dress, jewelry, and hairstyle that matches that style.

Let's talk about movement and texture! I promise you, movement and textures are going to serve you well! Especially in the wardrobe selections, the softer and more flowy the fabrics and designs (especially for the girls), the better! This creates movement and depth to photos that stiff fabrics or cuts just don't provide.





The EXPERIENCE

From start to finish, here's what to expect as we work together...

My approach is always gentle, intentional, and centered around your experience. I will guide you when you need it, but I never force moments that are not naturally yours. Throughout the day, my goal is to protect your peace so you can stay fully present instead of worrying about what comes next. Sometimes I will step in with soft direction, and other times I will quietly fade into the background while real moments unfold on their own. You never have to wonder what to do with your hands or where to stand. I am there to support you, anticipate what you need, and create space for you to simply be yourselves while your story is documented in a way that feels effortless and true.

Engagement Photos

Booked an engagement shoot with me? Let's get that date on the books and we'll get started on your vision, location, and wardrobe for the shoot!

Today (Booking Day)

Your date is officially BOOOOOKED on my calendar!!!!

1 Month from Wedding Day

I will schedule a meeting with you, either in-person or video (whichever you prefer), to talk your wedding details, expectations, and then create a wedding day timeline with you!

Now Until Wedding Day

This time is fair game for you to come to me with ANYTHING about your wedding. Send me the colors you're thinking, send me shots of the dress, ask me for vendor recommendations, see if I can look up some locations near your venue to take photos... I'm here for you!

WEDDING DAY!

I will text you the morning of, just to let you know that I am ready and so excited to finally be headed to your wedding!! Then, we have a blast creating the most beautiful photos of your dreams!

Booking Payments

We will set up monthly payments or split payments! Whatever is best for you guys!

Final Payment due 2 weeks before wedding day! (you will get an auto-reminder email for all payments.)

Day/Week After Wedding

I send you the first previews from your wedding day gallery so you already have something to enjoy from the day before. Make sure you have a tissue close-by!!

"WHAT NOW?"

Don't be a stranger! I always encourage my clients, if you loved working with me--don't hesitate to reach out when you need a photographer again! I LOVE shooting anniversary shoots, maternity shoots, or young-family shoots for my past clients. Seriously...one of my favorite things is to see your name pop back up in my inbox!

6-8 weeks after Wedding Day

AHHH it's finally time! I send you the FULL gallery of all your wedding photos or your film or BOTH! I will be SO excited for you to see these, and I promise to pour my heart into them! For Biggest Day couples you will receive your photos and film ON THE SAME DAY!

ENGAGEMENT *session*



YOUR VISION & MY INPUT

One of the first things I ask my couples before an engagement shoot is: "Do you have a vision for this shoot?" Basically, do you have something in mind that you'd like to make a reality? Or do you have something small that you'd like to build off of?

Either way is great! The greatest thing you can do for me is to just let me know where you are at! And the good news is, you get ME as much or as little as you'd like with my creative input! (My only non-negotiable is timing: I only shoot engagement photo sessions in the early morning or in the evening before the sun sets! This is to ensure the best lighting for your shoot!) If you have very little creative vision for your shoot, don't feel bad about that at all! I love helping guide you through the process of finding and picking a location, any thematic elements, and your outfit choices!

WHAT FEELS MOST LIKE YOU

My biggest piece of advice is just to make it feel like YOU. With a wedding, there is obviously going to be so many "bells and whistles" and formal-wear, so with the engagement shoot, I always like to get my couples completely in their element where they feel and look most comfortable and true to themselves. Feel free to think outside the box with this! Let's get creative!

Did you book an engagement shoot with me? If you haven't yet, I couldn't recommend it more! Engagement photos are one of the best ways to get to know each other, get comfortable with my shooting style, and it makes the wedding day photos SO much less intimidating. Also, these are just so much fun!



the BRIDAL *session*

Thinking you should be able to wear that dress more than just one day? I agree. Wanting to majorly take the pressure off of the wedding day photography? I gotchu. Thinking that you want some photos taken in a completely different location than your wedding venue? Let's make it happen!!

"WHAT ARE BRIDAL PHOTOS?"

Great question! At some point, you may have thought to yourself: "I just wish I could wear that dress more than just one day." or "I really want to take photos at our actual wedding, but I don't want the pressure of making sure we get everything on wedding day, and I'd like to take more photos at a completely different location!"

Well, let me introduce to you: The Bridal Photoshoot.

It's a photoshoot with you and your spouse on a completely separate day from your wedding, in a hand-selected location of your choice, wearing the exact same (or similar) thing as your wedding day attire.

A bridal photoshoot will give you a more relaxed, intimate, and creative experience with taking photos, and I promise you, the shots we get on this shoot will absolutely blow you away!

"HOW DO I BOOK MY BRIDALS?"

To schedule and book your Bridal Photoshoot, just contact me directly and let me know you are interested! Details are included in my pricing guide, and I will help you every step of the way with planning and coordinating the bridal shoot of your dreams!



HERE ARE SOME COMMON QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK...



“What if it rains on my wedding day?”

If it rains on your wedding day, I'm not scared at all! The only thing that might put me in a difficult situation as a photographer on a rainy wedding day is if the couple is completely unwilling to take photos outside or if they lose heart over the weather. Don't worry, I'm not saying you have to be willing to get soaked! But, if you come prepared with some pretty umbrellas, or you're willing to put up with a light rain on your hair, or you're willing to duck under some trees and all the while you stay positive--then there is nothing to worry about!!

I say this truthfully: rainy wedding days are some of my favorites. Rain is so incredibly romantic and sweet if you stay positive and flexible! And hey...if you ARE ready to get fully soaked? I am SO down. Rain photos are so stunning, I'll prove it to you!

“Will my dress get dirty during photos?”

That's up to you! But brides, I say this with your absolute best in mind... DON'T BE AFRAID TO GET THAT DRESS A LITTLE DIRTY! Here's the truth: it's probably the one day of your life that you get to wear this stunning gown! So, don't be afraid to get that crazy shot, or walk through the sand, or trek through the tall grass! Almost always, people are never looking directly at the bottom of your dress, and the dress never gets as dirty as you think it might!

Want to know one of the best ways you can help me as a photographer capture the type of photos that are going to BLOW YOU AWAY? Be willing to let the dress get a little dirty. :)

“Have you shot at my venue before, and how do you know it will work for you?”

For every wedding venue I haven't yet seen, I show up early to scout the best shooting locations on-site. That said, I truly have worked with so many different types of

venues, I know fairly quickly where the best shooting locations are after a short scouting walk!

“I didn't book a second shooter, but now I'm thinking I want one. Is that possible?”

Absolutely! I would be happy to add a second shooter to the wedding package. Just let me know, and I will add it!

“Will my wedding still look pretty if I have a lower budget?”

OH MY GOODNESS. YES. I don't know how "expensive" became synonymous with "beauty." Some of the most stunning weddings I've ever been to were "low-budget" weddings (whatever that means). Creative intentionality, effort, and heart will always always always create the most stunning wedding days.

“Where would you like to be seated at the reception?”

Either way is fine! But it is easier to be seated at a separate vendor table, or if there are no other vendors present, I can totally sit at a table alone! I'm fully willing to sit at a table with other wedding guests as well, I just prefer to sit away from wedding guests as I will be coming and going throughout the reception and probably stuffing in food at random times, and I don't want to come off rude to others!

Do you pose us? We are awkward in photos.

You do not need to worry about posing. I give gentle direction that feels natural so nothing looks stiff or forced. My goal is for you to feel comfortable, connected, and fully yourselves. Now if you have any ideas that you want to try I am so down!!!

WEDDING DAY TIPS





As a recent bride myself, I have experienced firsthand how quickly a wedding day moves and how meaningful the smallest, most thoughtful choices can be. These are a few gentle insights I share not only as your photographer, but as someone who has recently stood exactly where you are now.

♥ Start Your Morning With Intention

Choose a getting ready space with plenty of natural light and try to keep the area near windows a little open and uncluttered. It helps everything feel calm, and it allows your photos to look soft, bright, and timeless from the very beginning of the day.

🌿 Build In Breathing Room

The most peaceful wedding days always have a little extra space in the timeline. A few buffer minutes here and there can make the entire day feel relaxed instead of rushed. Trust that we will get everything we need without forcing moments and take that second to reset and slow down.

📷 Focus on What Matters Most

You never have to photograph every single possible combination of people. Choose the family and friendships that truly mean the most to you. Those intentional, heartfelt moments will always matter more than long, exhausting photo lists.

☀️ Trust the Light

Whenever possible, open doors, windows, and curtains to let natural light in. I will always guide you toward the most flattering light so you never have to think about it.

🌸 Keep Your Details Together

If you can, place your invitation suite, rings, shoes, jewelry, perfume, and any heirlooms in one small box before I arrive. This allows me to photograph everything beautifully without interrupting your time with your people.

💌 Protect Your Peace

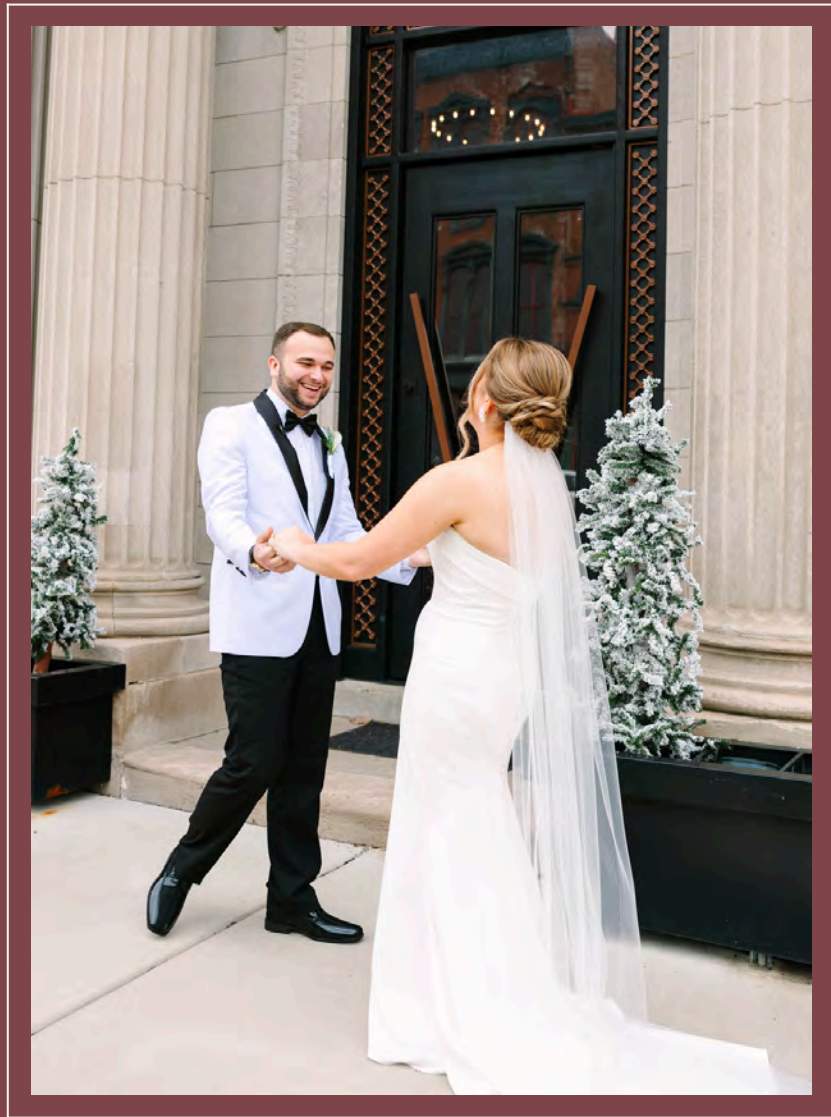
Your wedding day does not have to be perfect to be beautiful. You might feel excited, emotional, nervous, or completely overwhelmed at times, and that is all okay. My role is to gently guide, anticipate what you need, and create space for you to stay present while your story unfolds naturally.

At the end of the day, the most meaningful photos come from real connection, real laughter, and real moments. Trust yourself, trust the process, and allow the day to unfold exactly as it is meant to.

🥂 Sneak Away Together

One of my favorite parts of the day is when you two step away for just a few minutes, whether it is after the ceremony or during sunset. It is often the first quiet moment you get to breathe together, and those images feel incredibly genuine.

EMOTIONAL PREP



A Gentle Note for Your Heart ❤️

As your wedding day approaches, I want you to know something important. Every emotion you feel is welcome here. Excitement, nerves, joy, anticipation, even moments of overwhelm. This day carries so much meaning, and it is completely normal for your heart to feel full in more ways than one.



It Is Okay to Feel Nervous

Even the most calm and confident brides feel a few butterflies. You are stepping into a moment you have dreamed about for years, surrounded by people who matter deeply to you. Take a breath, ground yourself, and know that you do not have to carry the day alone. I will be there to guide you gently whenever you need it.

The Day Will Move Quickly

I have always been someone who hates when time moves too quickly, and on my own wedding day I remember wishing I could slow everything down just a little longer. That feeling is exactly why I encourage you to be intentional with your moments. Give yourself permission to pause. Hold hands a little longer. Look around the room. Notice the laughter, the quiet glances, and the way your people show up for you. Those are the moments that stay with you long after the day is over.

Be Present With Your People

The most meaningful photographs are never about perfect posing. They come from connection. Hug your mom tightly. Laugh with your friends. Let yourself be fully present in conversations and small in between moments. The more you lean into what you are feeling, the more genuine your memories will become.

At the end of the day, your wedding is not meant to be perfectly performed, it is meant to be deeply felt. Let yourself slow down, breathe it all in, and hold close the people and moments that matter most. Years from now, it will not be the tiny details you remember most clearly, but the way your heart felt in those fleeting, beautiful moments surrounded by love.



THANK YOU.

Truly, thank you for trusting me with something so meaningful. Your wedding day is more than a timeline or a gallery of images it is a chapter of your story that deserves to be felt, remembered, and preserved with care. It is such an honor to walk alongside you during this season, to celebrate with you, and to create photographs and films that will live far beyond the day itself.

I cannot wait to see everything you have dreamed up come to life and to capture the moments that matter most to you. Until then, know that I am always here if you need guidance, encouragement, or a little extra reassurance along the way.

With so much gratitude,

Madelyn ♥



Madelyn
SHAYNE
Photo & Film