



4 WAYS TO MAKE  
FAMILY PICTURES  
FAST, EFFICIENT  
& STRESS-FREE!

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*on the wedding day!*

## *a quick* NOTE

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First off, your wedding day is coming up! Congrats!

There are so many emotions all entwined about the wedding day--a mixture of excitement, a touch of the nerves, a little trepidation about how things will go or even a little sadness if there's someone who should be at your wedding, but won't be for whatever reason.

Family formals is one of those parts of the day that can be stressful and even a little bittersweet depending on everyone's individual situation. Though they're definitely important & vital, they can be everyone's least favorite part of the wedding day. That's where this guide comes in!

Here I'll tell you four ways to make family photos quick, painless and drama-free!

So read on to find out!



XOXO,

*Meg*









# 1. PICK ONE LOCATION & STICK TO IT!

*Once you find a location with good light and a nice background, stay there!*

Many couples want family formals and bridal party photos inside the church or religious building at the altar, right outside the church or religious building and at a THIRD location of their choosing. And the truth is, it's just not necessary! Of course, you want a lot of variety for your wedding album or for your Christmas cards. But honestly, I'm gonna let you in on a little secret...

Family portraits can get very tiring VERY quickly! Especially for your elderly relatives and young nieces & nephews. You can only do so much and be so creative with telling little Tommy to stop poking his little sister and asking 90 year old Grandma Rose to squeeze in here, stand there etc.

Family portraits, though important, can get repetitive after a while. You want to make sure that your wedding day is a pleasant experience for everyone! So that when your family members scroll through the images after a few months, they'll smile and reminisce about how wonderful your special day was. Not groan and complain that family pictures took forever.

Also, going to multiple locations takes away from your bridal/groomal portraits, which is NOT good for either you as a couple or your photographer!

(Spoiler alert, bridal/groomal portraits are our FAVORITE part of your wedding day... not so much the family photos)



## 2. MAKE A LIST OF FAMILY PHOTO COMBINATIONS-BY NAME!

*Sit down before the wedding & make a detailed shot list of all the family photo combinations*

I know it sounds tedious, and it definitely CAN be tedious if you have a big, extended family. But trust me, this will save SO MUCH time on the wedding day! Remember, your wedding day is a combination of both you and your soon-to-be-spouse's family, which means you'll have at least TWICE the family photos than normal.

Also, make sure you put first names down on your list with the relationship in parentheses. Ex. Gary & Martha (Bride's grandparents)

People perk up more when they hear their first name than just saying "Bride's cousins!"

Here's an example below of typical family combos to get you started, but remember, make sure you give your photographer ANY shots that are must haves. Your photographer will do his or her best to capture all the normal shots, but if there's anything special or out of the ordinary that's especially important to you, communicate that to your photographer!

- Bride & Groom w/Tammy & John (Bride's parents)
- Bride w/Tammy & Rose (Bride's mother & grandma)
- Bride w/ Lisa & Sean (Bride's sister & brother)
- Bride w/ Tammy, John, Lisa & Sean (Bride's family) etc!





### 3. REMIND YOUR FAMILY THEY CAN VISIT AFTER PHOTOS ARE DONE

*They'll have plenty of time to chat after family formals are done!*

Right after the ceremony, it's so tempting to want to chat with relatives people haven't seen in a long time, or with other guests, but your photographer will want to get started on family photos PRONTO and might get a little bossy if no one seems to be moving. I know you don't wanna be a killjoy, and neither does your photographer! But getting everybody rounded up and into position will ensure that not only will you have enough time to take those bridal/groomal portraits you wanna hang on your wall, but it will also let your family get back to celebrating with the other guests much faster!

## 4. INFORM YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER OF ANY SENSITIVE FAMILY DYNAMICS IN ADVANCE

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*Communicate well ahead of the wedding day if there's anything your photographer needs to be aware of with family formals (like death or divorce)*

No one likes to talk about unpleasant topics, least of all on your wedding day! But they may come up by accident if the photographer isn't aware of it in the middle of family portraits. For example, if your photographer notices that the groom hasn't had a picture of just him and his parents, and the photographer asks "Okay, Liam! Let's do a shot with just you and mom and dad now!"

Well, maybe mom and dad went through a VERY unpleasant divorce earlier that year and don't want to be in pictures together at all. This will not only make things SUPER awkward for your photographer, this will also bring up painful memories for you or your new spouse!

So, though it's uncomfortable to talk about something that's a private, emotional family matter, it will make family portraits be SO much more pleasant and painless if your photographer knows this ahead of time!





# JUST TO REVIEW

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- ☐ Pick just ONE location where everyone can get their pictures done  
(with good light and a good background, according to what your photographer advises)
- ☐ Make a detailed shot list of every family combination (using their first names and relation to bride or groom!)
- ☐ Remind your family & friends they can chat and catch up with each other AFTER family portraits are done
- ☐ Let your photographer know if there's a sensitive family situation he or she needs to be aware of

And that's it! Hopefully these tips will help you get through those family pictures fast and easy!

Take care!

xoxo



(PRINT ME!)