

# Sample 'Traditional' Wedding Photography Timetable Planner

**(Every wedding will be uniquely different, but this is just some ideas to consider)**

- Take your engagement or bridal portraits at least 6 weeks before your wedding date.
- Determine how you want to display photos at your reception and organize and order what you need well in advance.
- At least 1 month before the wedding -order enlargement photos and/or signature board for display at reception.
- A couple of hours before the ceremony the photographer meets at bride's home/salon/church for 'getting-ready' photos. When the photographer arrives the bride is usually putting the finishing touches on her hair and makeup and ready for the photos of putting on the dress. The bridesmaids are usually completely ready at this time. NOTE: Anyone to be 'formally' photographed prior to the ceremony should be completely dressed, made-up and ready for photos 1½ hours prior to the ceremony starting time.
- If you want 'formal' family pictures we usually start 1½ - 2 hrs. before the ceremony and create pictures of the bride with parents/grandparents and bridesmaids. (Either before groom arrives or while he is in hiding)
- 1 hr. to 50 minutes before the ceremony (if time permits) photos are taken at the ceremony location of the groom with parents/grandparents and groomsmen. (While the bride is in hiding) These can be 'formal' posed groups or just casual.
- 30-45 minutes before the ceremony starts the bridal party is in hiding (except the ushers) casual photojournalistic photos are taken of the bride in her chambers and the groom in waiting and the guests arriving.
- During the ceremony multiple camera silent/flashless or flash photography is taken in both color and B&W both from the ground level and from the balcony.
- Directly after the ceremony the bride & groom go into a pre-determined hiding place while the church or ceremony location is emptied. The photography assistant sets up the large camera for formal group shots while the photographer gets some 'relaxed' pictures of the bride & groom with the bridal party and their closest friends.
- Sometimes there is an additional event right after the ceremony i.e.: getting into the limo, rice-throwing, military rifle salute, Scottish bag-piper, horse & buggy ride, etc. My only word of caution is don't let the couple get stuck into an impromptu 'receiving line' immediately after the ceremony as it will ultimately delay the reception and if there is too much time spent 'meeting & greeting' at the church some people will never make it to the reception.
- 10-15 minutes after the ceremony, once the attendees have cleared out, the bridal party and designated immediate family members meet at the front of the church (ceremony location) for the private group photo session. Bridal coordinator

insures invited family members remain for photos. **(No flash photography allowed by the attendees)**

- First picture is of the bride, groom and officiator. Then family groups (No group larger than 20-25 people.)
- Bridal coordinator and photographer's assistant gathers group #2 on the side while Amin is working with group #1, then they gather group #3 while Amin is photographing group #2, etc. until all groups are done.
- After the family group photo is finished the participants are sent out of the room and on to the reception.
- Complete pre-approved and organized listing of photos should take between 20-30 minutes max. A good plan and pre-organization will insure that we don't keep you guests waiting.
- Optional 10 minutes of photos of just the bride and groom alone in the church and if time allows, outside the church. (At this time there is only the cameraman, the bride and groom and the photo coordinator and/or building coordinator in the room, this insures the least amount of disturbance)
- Some weddings have several hours between the ceremony and the reception and often we go to a park or the couple's favorite scenic spot, - -or ABC liquors- - (after the family group photos) for some intimate couple scenic shots.
- Once the bridal party is ready and the photographer is in place the DJ announces the wedding party as they enter the reception area.
- The DJ coordinates timing of reception events and insures the photographer is informed and prepared for each event i.e.: first dance, father/daughter - mother/son- dance, toast, cake smashing, bouquet toss, garter toss, YMCA and hokey pokey (I just threw that in to see if you were paying attention), etc.
- Most of the reception photos are taken with little or no photographer input so you can enjoy your time with family and friends.
- Once the reception is well under way if the bride and groom want a break sometimes we go for a 10-20 minute walk on the grounds (this is a good time for you to take a breath of air) sometimes we bring the whole bridal party and take fun unposed group shots (30 minutes before sunset if possible click on this link to figure out [when sunset will be](#) on your wedding date).
- If you want a major group shot (30-300 people) it must be pre-planned and we usually setup at a pre-determined site at the reception location (large staircase or balcony) and have the DJ announce when to gather the mob for the shot. Once again, with pre-planning and setup we can do this quickly and with the coordination by the DJ so as to keep it with the flow of the party.
- Sometimes at the reception we setup a photography area off to the side so extended family (aunts, uncles, in-laws) can have their formal photograph taken as a family or with the bride and groom. These photos are usually taken after the bride and groom have eaten and while the guests are still eating. These photos are for those we didn't have time to capture after the ceremony. Some couples don't want these as formal shots and just spontaneously gather small groups during the reception for a candid informal group shot.
- We usually try to do the 'exit' photo before too many people have left the reception. Depending on the length of the reception and the number of hours you

have the photographer contracted for, sometimes it is done 1- 1.5 hours before the band concludes.

- The DJ announces the time and location of the exit (usually 5-10 minutes before the photographer's contracted time ends) and everyone prepares their bubbles, birdseeds, butterflies, flower peddles, etc. for the grand exit. The couple takes direction from the photographer to insure the best photos and then drives around the building and returns to party with the diehards!
- All your photos are on the internet aprox. 1 to 2 weeks after the event.
- Original photos(if ordered) are available 3-4 weeks after the event.
- Album designs, parent album orders, etc. should be returned within 14-21 days after receiving the originals.
- Simple reprints take aprox. 2-3 weeks. Retouched or custom reprints may take 3-6 weeks.
- Depending on their size and details, hand-made conservation albums can take anywhere from 2 to 4 months for completion. Due to our customized unique design styles. (We allow you to review your album and view it's progress even when it may only be partially complete. All products are guaranteed and we will gladly re-work or change any page that doesn't look 'exactly as expected' to insure your finished album turns out exactly as you wanted!)

**I look forward to sitting down with you and discussing your unique wedding plans!**