

## Wedding Photography – What to expect from your photographer

### A SHORT LIST OF BASICS

*Your interview of a photographer should include these things*

#### **You should expect your photographer to:**

- **Listen to your needs and ideas.**  
*Listening is a skill that is sometimes lost in more areas than photography. This is your wedding and you and your ideas need to be respected.*
- **Discuss your ideas in the framework of their experience.**  
*In listening to your idea the photographer should apply their experience and give you feedback on your ideas and their ability to produce results.*
- **To manage and direct the photography process on your wedding day unless you direct otherwise.**  
*It is important to most couples that they not feel in additional stress on their wedding day related to the photography. Your photographer should be willing and able to take the responsibility.*
- **Evaluate the location(s) prior to the event to determine setting and lighting requirements.**  
*Sometimes the photographer will know the location, sometimes photographs or phone calls will work but it is often times worthy of an on-site inspection by the photographer prior to the event in order to make appropriate plans and let you know of any concerns prior to the wedding day. Again, the wedding day is not the time for concerns!*
- **To discuss with you an lighting obstruction concerns related to the location and timing of your event.**  
*This comes from the item above as well as some generic lighting concerns that apply to all locations.*
- **To arrive at each location ½ hour before shooting time unless constrained by your sequence of events.**  
*Things happen! Being early is just the right and safe think to do to allow a cushion for the unplanned.*
- **Have back-up photographer(s) available in case of unforeseen circumstances.**  
*This is not a 100% failsafe put knowing that the photographer has back-up options for circumstances such as illness or family emergencies is important.*
- **Use an assistant for some situations.**  
*This is mostly an FYI. The photographer may be more successful with an assistant or it may be required depending on the coverage requirements of the contract. Many circumstances do not require an assistant.*
- **Provide redundant high quality equipment to guard against an incomplete shoot due to faulty equipment.**  
*This is essential? Even five thousand dollar cameras fail at one time or another. Back-up equipment in the form of cameras, lights, power, etc. can be critical to the completion of the shoot.*
- **Provide you with a price-list for your package, with complete contents list and costs for additional purchases as part of your contract.**  
*Simple, now what you are paying, what you are getting and what the cost of your options are beyond the scope of the contract.*
- **Follow the rules of the church leaders if you are married in a church.**  
*Many churches have “rules” related to photography in the church and / or during the ceremony. This is not unique by religion, it is unique by individual church leaders. Respectfulness of the rules is required.*
- **Not interfere with your ceremony or other events.**  
*It is unfortunate, but there are plenty of horror stories related to photographers becoming a focal point during the ceremony, blocking participants views, interrupting events and interrupting the natural flow of events. It is important to be able to understand the difference between planned formal pictures and photojournalism. The photographer should capture the event not create it.*