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## Tips for the Bride and Groom from your photographer

### Bride's Room – Getting Ready

- Here is where we can get photographs of the Bride and all the important women preparing for the wedding. Also, include the Bride's parents.
- Please allow time for pictures of people arriving to Bride's Room.
- I recommend that you use a Makeup Artist & Hair Stylist– for everyone.
- We will take photographs of Jewelry, Rings, Shoes, Wedding Gown before you get dressed – Wedding Gown on nice hanger hung for the camera.
- Have your jewelry, shoes and dress and any other details laying out for your photographer  
Delegate this task to the Maid of Honor. Let her know where all your details are that you will be wearing so that once the photographer is there you can keep getting ready and they with your Maid of Honor's help can gather those details and get some awesome shots of them!
- We will start with the Bride in street cloths. Keep Bride's Room straightened up – Hint: Large rubber tote tubs are excellent for storing street clothes, shoes, coats, garment bags, accessories, etc and getting them out of the camera's sight and out of the way.
- We will take photographs prior to putting on the gown – of makeup being applied, hair being fixed, undergarments, adjusting hose, putting on garter, putting on gown and lacing the back of the gown, Putting on the veil
- Please gather people for the Bride's Room group photos: Parents of Bride & Groom, Sisters of Bride and Groom, Brides Maids, Flower Girls, Grandmothers & Grandfathers of Bride and Groom, Aunts. This includes the flowers.

### Bride's Room - Group Photos

- These are very important shots so please allow enough time for them.
- Location suggestions – Stairway, garden area, balcony,
- These are rather formal posed photos. Allow some time to gather people and to set up the photographs
- Assign someone to help the photographer – to identify people, to arrange the gown

## Groom's Room – Getting Ready

- Photographs of the Groom and all the important men including the Groom's parents preparing for the wedding
- Please allow time for pictures of people arriving to Groom's Room
- Start with the Groom in street cloths. Keep Groom's Room straightened up – Hint: Large rubber tote tubs are excellent for storing street clothes, shoes, coats, garment bags, accessories, etc and getting them out of the camera's sight and out of the way.
- We will take photographs of Jewelry, Rings, Shoes, Studs, Bow Tie, Tuxedo before you get dressed – Tuxedo on nice hanger hung for the camera.
- We will take photographs prior to putting on the tux – joking around, shaking hands
- Gather people for the Groom's Room group photos: Parents of Bride & Groom, Sisters of Bride and Groom, Grandmothers & Grandfathers of Bride and Groom, Uncles. This includes the flowers.

## Groom's Room - Group Photos

- These are very important shots so don't rush thru this
- Location suggestions – Stairway, garden area, balcony and in front of the church.
- These are rather formal posed photos. Allow some time to gather people and to set up the photographs

## First Look

- This one is a favorite of wedding photographers, but I know that there are couples out there that want to keep things traditional and wait to see one another at the ceremony. If you are not familiar with what this is, it's when the bride and groom see one another before the ceremony. I understand the desire for traditionalism, but if you could indulge me for a moment. The first look photos are a photographer's favorite because of the raw emotion that is shared just between the bride and groom in an intimate moment. This private moment between the two of you creates beautiful images that show the love and excitement between the two of you. Also if you chose to do this, I recommend it to be just for the both of you, as having family and friends watch can be too distracting to the both of you!

## Ceremony

- Make sure the ceremony room is well lit
- Please smile during the Processional. I know this sounds silly but this is a very emotional time that can cause very serious expressions.
- Hold bouquets at belly button level.
- Processional shots look better if only one person/couple is in the aisle at a time. This prevents crowding and it allows our flash to recycle fully so we get the best exposure. I also recommend that you walk slowly. Running or dancing down the aisle looks good on YouTube but it makes terrible photographs.
- We follow the rules of the church. Most churches require no flash after the processional until the ceremony kiss which is commonly called the service. That is common but not a standard rule in every church. We usually take the photographs of the service from the back of the church or the balcony without flash. I usually use a tripod for this.

## Back to the Alter Formals “Group Shots”

- Assign someone to help the photographer – to identify people, to arrange the gown
- Announce after the ceremony for immediate family to stay in the ceremony location for photos
- This can be the most beautiful and meaningful photographs. It needs to be well lit and well organized. Please let the Entire Wedding Party and family members who will be in these photographs know well in advance that they need to be there for pictures. Sometimes, people forget where they are supposed to be. We may need helpers gather them up, so have these helpers assigned in advance of the wedding. I usually start out with the shots that include the minister so I can release him first. I then get the shots that include the family members, parents and grand parents so they can be released quickly. Then I photograph the Brides Maids and Grooms Men followed by Best Man and Maid of Honor. Finally, I will photograph the Bride & Groom.
- Have your Maid of Honor, family member or friend help out with wrangling the family for the family shots
- This is helpful to your photographer if there is a family member or friend who knows the faces that go with the names on the photographers list. They can point out the people as well as be a little more direct with them than I like to be! This also helps to keep things going as quickly as possible



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## **Bride & Groom Portraits “Couple Shots”**

- Leave AT LEAST ½ hour for bride and groom portraits
- This can be done at the church or another beautiful location. If you want portraits done outdoors, be aware that the sun sets at different times during the year and lighting can be a problem. Also, Mother Nature has a mind of her own when it comes to the weather.
- This of course is not always possible, because sometimes wedding are running quite a bit behind. I typically schedule an hour for bride and groom photos so even if everything is going a ½ hour behind we still have a ½ hour to shoot bride and groom photos. To me these shots are some of my favorite from the whole day and are the ones you are going to want to hang on your wall and put in your albums- so giving them the time they deserve is important!

## **Reception**

- I like to work closely with the band director, DJ or Master of Ceremony. That way I am kept informed as to what is coming up next.
- Please let me direct the scene for the Toast(s), Garter Throw, Bouquet Throw and Cake Cutting. We can discuss this prior to the big day whenever you want.
- Make sure the rooms are well lit – dark rooms are romantic but don’t photograph well.
- Assign someone to help the photographer – to identify people, to arrange the gown.
- Please be kind and allow the photographer (and his assistants) to eat. Most events take several hours and your photographer is probably the only contracted person that will be with you all day from preparation to the very end. I don’t expect to be fed like your guests, those plates are very expensive. Just something substantial so I can keep up my energy. The best time for me to eat is while the guests are eating. There are not a lot of photographs that can be taken at that time. FYI, I will not drink alcoholic beverages at your wedding.



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## Some Additional Tips

- “Can you make me look thinner? Can you make my teeth look whiter? Can you get rid of my tattoo? Can you get rid of my tan lines?” The answer to these questions is actually “No”. We can try to make you look the best we can but we need your help. If your weight concerns you, take some weight off. If your dark teeth concerns you, go to a dentist to have your teeth whitened. If the tattoo concerns you, don’t try to cover it up with makeup, it will still show. Wear a gown that covers it up. Regarding tan lines, stay out of the sun for a few weeks so your skin is even or tan all over to eliminate lines.
- Wear a gown that flatters your figure and body type. Don’t borrow someone else’s dress unless it really works for you.
- Wedding Vendors. Please use professionals because they know how to stay out of each others way. We work well with other professional vendors. Amateurs have been known to get in the way of important photos, “Photo Bomb”, at just the worst time.
- Venue. Get one that has appropriate lighting. Well lit rooms look great in photographs. Photographs do not turn out nice in complete darkness. Laser lights in dark rooms drive the cameras crazy. Choose a venue that has a large and beautiful bridal room “Bride’s dressing room”. We will be taking a number of important photos in this room. Make sure they have a nice area for group shots. Also, choose a venue with nice grounds outside for photographs. No concrete block walls, trash cans, gravel or weedy grass outside.
- Photographer. Look for a photographer what stresses quality rather than quantity. If you are looking for a photographer that is stressing quantity you may be unhappy with the quality. It is unlikely you’ll be happy with a truckload of bad photographs.
- Start the wedding on time. When the wedding starts late, everyone becomes stressed and it shows up in the pictures. We need at least 30 minutes for the Group Shots and 30 minutes for the Couple Shots. Most Brides and Grooms will want to cheat these photo events to make up for lost time when the wedding starts late. These are very important photographs and you will regret it later in life if you cheat these shots.
- Have fun and enjoy the wedding. I have photographed over 300 weddings and have never seen a wedding yet that something didn’t go wrong. You have planned every tiny detail to perfection. Remember, you are dealing with humans and humans make mistakes. Expect the unexpected. Don’t let it ruin you mood. Have fun and enjoy. Be nice and gracious to everyone, including you photographer. If you are upset, it will show up in your photographs. Your photographer is there to record you wedding. It is your wedding and we want you to be happy with the results of the photography. We try to take the shots that we think you will enjoy looking at in years to come. Be open with us and let us know what you want. We want to accommodate you if at all possible to make you happy.