



*Advice
for the
Bride to Be*

Wedding Day Photography

Helpful Tips as You Plan Your Wedding Day!

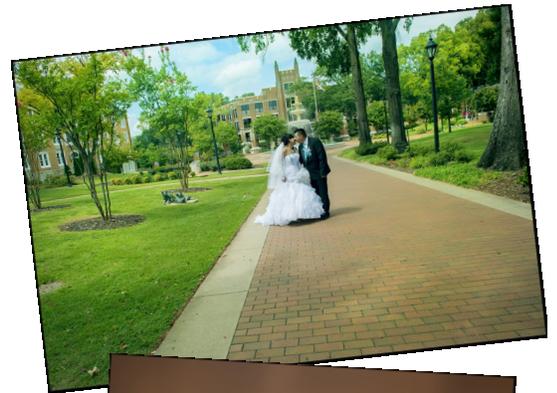
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A Digital Reflection Photography & Videography

Advice for the Bride to Be - Wedding Day Photography

You have dreamed of your wedding day since you were a little girl and are busy with every detail from the location to the ceremony planning to the food to the flowers to the decorating to the limo to the photography to the video. Here are some tips for planning your wedding day and your wedding day photography to insure that your day goes just as you have planned:

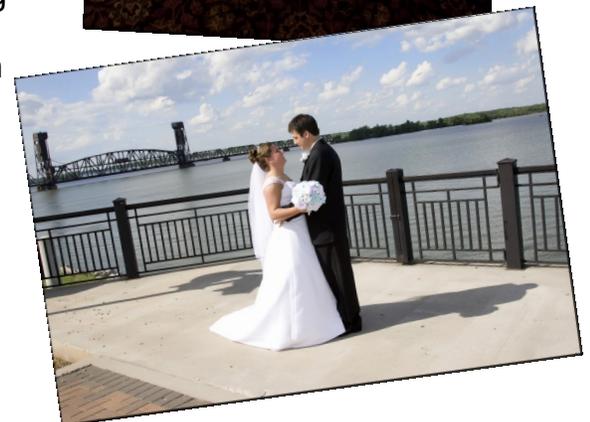
Leave the photography to a professional and enjoy your wedding day! Wedding Photography is one of your "bigger ticket items" and every bride wants to save money, but it is very important to choose a qualified professional rather than an amateur. A professional photographer will get the great shots, keep you on schedule and make your wedding day flow so much smoother. You will be so glad that you did when you see your wedding proofs and then get the finished product to enjoy and re-live those moments.



Discuss the style of wedding photography that you like with your photographer. Many brides like a more photojournalistic style capturing the romance as events happen naturally and maybe "posed but not posed" while mom or grandma may desire some of those more traditional poses so think about the style in which you would like your photographer to capture and share your expectations. Build a good relationship with your photographer, get to know each other and make sure that he or she is capable of capturing what style you expect.



Late afternoon is always better for outdoor wedding day photography. As you plan the time of day for your wedding, please take time to look at the big picture and what time you will be taking any pre-wedding shots. Example: Your wedding is at 2:00 PM so you may be working with your photographer outdoors at high noon which is not the best time of day for outdoor photography so you might consider a later ceremony time and/or block off some time in your schedule to get those romantic shots at the optimal time of day. You might consider having your ceremony a couple of hours before sunset (that time varies according to the time of year for your wedding).



Many couples are choosing to schedule a few private romantic moments to see each other for the first time before the wedding and before any formal

photography. The couple enjoys each other's company in private with no one around (except your photographer to capture candid photos) and this special meeting creates such a romantic experience together that you would otherwise never have in the life of your relationship. This plan allows your photographer to take care of all of your formal photography before the wedding so you can go straight from your ceremony to your reception, if you choose.

If you choose the traditional plan of your groom not seeing you for the first time on your wedding day until you walk down the aisle during the ceremony, you may choose to do as much of the photography as possible before the wedding so that only the couple photographs and couple with wedding party and couple with families can be done efficiently right after the ceremony and then, on to your reception. You and your new spouse are the main event so you will not want to rush the couple photos. Plan to carve out ample time for romance and romantic couple photographs and don't let your friends and family rush you or break your focus. Enjoy this romantic time together and enjoy each other's company as a newly married couple. You will be happier and more romantic through the experience and more pleased with the finished product.

Choose a wedding photography package that insures that your photographer can capture your wedding day as things happen rather than try to stretch a small package to cover everything to save money and have to rush on your wedding day. This is SO IMPORTANT. Would you rather be constantly thinking ahead of every shot that you want the photographer to capture before he or she will be leaving and have to rush some of your schedule ahead of your optimal desires or would you rather be able to enjoy every minute of your wedding day and let your photographer take that burden for you and cut the cake when you want to, not have to cut it early because you have chosen the wrong photography package.

Many couples are now choosing to block off a portion of time between the ceremony and reception to go to another location for romantic wedding photos such as a college campus, a city park,



botanical gardens, etc. The sky's the limit, but this isn't possible if you haven't planned ahead and blocked time in your wedding day schedule. Another option is to block some time during your reception to "steal away" for those romantic shots around sunset. Consider scheduling a day after the wedding session or a week after the wedding with your photographer for a romantic on-location session in your wedding dress. Good planning can make this happen!

Make a list of those "must haves" photos that are important to you and share the list with your photographer. Your professional photographer will have a list of common poses, but he or she needs to know what is important to you so the photos captured are what you want and time is not wasted taking photos that you are not interested in.

Many brides and their attendants run late with hair and makeup and sometimes the flowers haven't arrived when you need them. If you think that hair and makeup may be a factor in running behind, please think about starting an hour earlier. Also, plan ahead and let your florist know when the flowers need to arrive so you will have them for the photography. If anyone in your wedding party or families tend to run late, give them an earlier time to arrive.

If you are a DIY Bride (Do-It-Yourself) - whether you are a bride who loves DIY because of the challenge and the excitement of a bargain or you need to find a way to cut or contain costs, have everything completed the day before the wedding (i.e. decorating the facility, preparing flowers, food, etc.) and delegate actual wedding day responsibilities to people who are not in your immediate family or wedding party so that your mom, dad, brothers, sisters, grandparents, groom's family and wedding party as well as yourself can relax and enjoy all of your wedding moments.

Put someone in charge of your wedding day if you do not have a wedding coordinator or planner. This person can make sure all of your well-planned details happen as they should. (You can even go one step further here and put someone in charge of each major item to work with the main coordinator or planner.)



Walk slowly during your ceremony

processional. Sometimes it seems like everyone in the wedding party is hurrying down the aisle. A typical ceremony only lasts a few minutes after you have put so many months into planning so slow down and have everyone else slow down and enjoy each moment. Your photographer can more easily get each desired shot and you all will have enjoyed the experience.

Consider an engagement session for you and

your perspective spouse. Not only will you have great portraits for your "Save the Date" cards and newspaper announcements, but the groom will have time to build a good relationship with the photographer and both of you will be more at ease and relaxed for your wedding day photo ops.

Schedule a bridal session in your wedding

dress prior to your wedding day. This is a very important part of your wedding process. This is a trial run for the bride getting ready for the wedding day. Your hair, your makeup, how long it takes to get into your wedding gown are all such important components of your wedding day. If you run behind getting to your bridal session, you can make adjustments in your schedule for the wedding day.

Don't plan a new hairstyle for your bridal session

or wedding day. You will not want to view your proofs or photographs later and hate your hairstyle. Try out your desired hairstyle prior to your bridal session. If you are not fond of it, you still have time to make changes.

Please remember, this is your wedding day. Relax and don't rush! You have planned well and your professionals are handling everything so you, your wedding party and families can enjoy the fruits of your labor. Smile and savor every romantic moment!

We wish you all of the best for your wedding day and most of all, best wishes for a great marriage and new life together!

For more information about professional wedding photography, please feel free to contact Dona Bonnett at 256.345.3993 or info@adigitalreflection.com and visit their website at www.adigitalreflection.com.

