

PHOTOGRAPHY

ADVICE FROM A WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

We can't stress enough the need for a professional photographer for your special day. The limo will be long gone, the cake eaten, the music just a memory — but the photographs will be yours for a lifetime to share and cherish.

Wedding photographers should be employed as full-time photographers and have many years experience with various types of weddings. Sometimes a predominantly Catholic ceremony photographer will not be familiar with the events at a Jewish or Muslim wedding, and vice versa. It's best to select a photographer who specializes in your needs.

Most wedding dates are booked at least a year in advance, and since most photographers only require a small deposit, it's money well-spent to assure your date is reserved with the photographer.

And gone are the days of 35mm snapshots. Today,

most professionals use medium format cameras which give you the largest negatives possible to assure clear and colorful photographs and enlargements that you would be proud to display and show your friends and family.

In addition, your special needs should be discussed extensively, especially where you want to have the formal group photos taken. We often tell couples to visit several photographers to get ideas on the types of photos they like — such as romantic or candlelight poses — or which ones they may not want at all. Each couple has an idea of the type of photos they would like to have — and you deserve to get them. If you find a photographer you feel comfortable with, and are satisfied with the style and quality of his or her work, then the cost should not be overly important.

Following are some other important items to keep in mind:

- Most wedding festivities last eight to 12 hours, so a limited-coverage package should only be selected if you are absolutely sure this type of coverage will be adequate.

- Provide dinner for your photographer, and consider tipping him or her if they do a good job.

- Additional photographic services such as hand-coloring, sepia toning, digital and black-and-white photography should also be available.

- A good way to become familiar with your photographer is by scheduling a portrait session. If you like the photos, chances are you'll like the wedding photos. If you don't like the portrait photos ... beware.

- Service after the wedding is the key to all successful studios. Providing the proofs and finished photos within the specified time frame is a must!

- Photographers who belong to professional organizations tend to be most familiar with current trends, products, styles and technologies.

- Choose a photographer who can show you new and interesting poses, but who is still able to provide quality, traditional coverage. *(Michael Sisti Photography)*

