

QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER

Presented by

Photos at Your Place:
We Bring the Studio to You

Characteristics of the portfolio?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are the photos framed/positioned well?• Centered, and not over or under-exposed (except for some of those "candid" shots)?• Are people relaxed and comfortable being photographed?
How many weddings have you shot?	Expect experience. If you are looking for a certain styles of photography, make sure your photographer has that kind of experience (e.g., photojournalistic, or formal portraiture) that fits your preferred style.
How many weddings will you shoot on MY wedding day?	Unless your wedding celebration is quite short (less than 2 hours), then your photographer should be doing only yours that day. Concentration on your wedding is the issue, not "going on to the next shoot."
How about your references?	Follow up. Call & investigate: costs, flexibility, promptness, and professionalism are the key issues.
Is my photographer aware of my wedding and reception architecture?	Previous or pre-wedding investigation of lighting issues is absolutely paramount. If he/she does not plan to make an extensive review of the places where the wedding & reception are being held, then something is amiss.
Is the person answering your questions the actual person taking the photographs?	Make sure you are getting the photographer, not his or her assistant. And, if they are not hiring an assistant, why not? You should expect one--regardless of the size of the wedding. Beyond informal snapshots, it is almost impossible to shoot a wedding without at least one assistant.
If your photographer has a family emergency or is ill, who is his/her backup photographer?	Photographers do die, they do have families, and your wedding only happens once.

<p>Do you get the digital negatives? And, if so, what is the cost?</p>	<p>Legally, photographers own the photographs. That does not mean that you do not have rights to the negatives so you can make your own prints. Some photographers charge a lot for this; others do not permit it. The cost for "negatives" is normally a separate item in fee structures.</p>
<p>How is price determined?</p>	<p>A flat fee, hourly rate, or package rate may be charged. Generally, you can control costs best by hiring on an hourly basis and purchasing only the prints you want in the configuration you want. Some photographers expect the fee to be paid in advance of the wedding, others expect at least a 25% deposit of expected or package rate costs.</p>
<p>What kind of equipment is the photographer using?</p>	<p>Expect the best and do not allow "gear head" talk throw you. If the photographer says something like "we use Canon L-class lenses with Nova-Tron strobes," ask him/her "And, just what does that mean--in plain English?"</p>
<p>Does the photographer do his/her own prints?</p>	<p>Studios' photographers who do their own prints can usually provide faster turnaround and pay more attention to detail. Yet, some requests (e.g., a 20"x30" portrait) will probably be need to sent out to a print service.</p>
<p>How long will the photographer keep your "negatives?"</p>	<p>In this day and age, he/she should be able to keep them indefinitely (e.g., on CD's). Just to be safe, you might want to purchase a CD of your favorites for longtime usage, assuming your photographer will allow you to do so.</p>



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