



Weddings

BY LEAH GOETZEL PHOTOGRAPHY



My Promise

THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE

"Your wedding is a reflection of you, and your photographs should show the authentic moments of love and happiness that you experience on your day."

I am so happy you have chosen me to capture your special day! Perhaps you have imagined your wedding since you were little - how you would look, how you would feel, how every detail would come together. Or perhaps you're just ready to have a killer party and celebrate you and your love. Regardless of your vision, I will capture it in photographs that you and your family will cherish for generations.

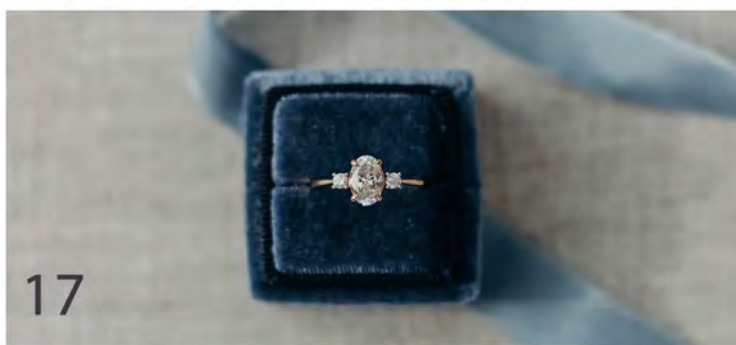
Each wedding is unique, just as each couple is unique. I'll take the time to get to know you and your partner, who makes who laugh, who is going to cry first. Your wedding is a beautiful reflection of you both and your photographs should show the

authentic moments of love and happiness that you experience on your day.

Your wedding will be full of big moments, but I want to capture the small moments, too - the subtle expressions of intimacy and commitment that you, as a couple, share; the details that make this day distinctly yours; the family, the fun, the laughter, the tears of joy. Your photographs should be authentic, bold and beautiful - just like you.

So grab yourself a glass of wine, because this guide is a lengthy one. But hopefully it will answer some questions and give you some helpful tips! Cheers!

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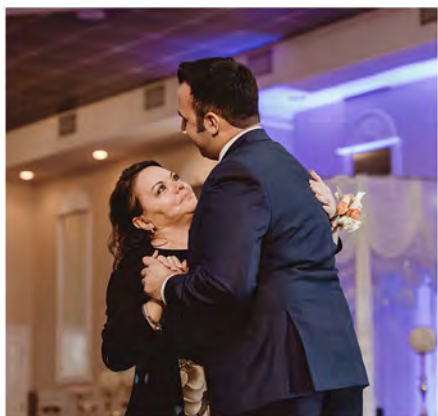


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Choosing a Photographer

“Authenticity is the key to memorable photographs, and I am committed to portraying the true you.”

Choosing a photographer is one of the most important wedding details. The day you've waited for will be over before you know it, and once the cake has been eaten and the guests have gone home all you'll have are your memories and your photographs. The perfect photographs will transport you back to each special moment of your wedding day so you can relive your happiness again and again. Selecting the right photographer can be overwhelming, though, so how can you choose?

I want to know you as a couple so I can produce images that reflect you, your goals and your dreams. I want to know what matters to you, and make that come through in your photos. Authenticity is the key to memorable photographs, and I am committed to portraying the true you.

During our consultation, you will be

able to view complete wedding galleries from my portfolios, so you can see that quality and professionalism come through in every image. From the grand moments to the subtle details, I give each element equal attention and care. If it matters to you, it's important to me, and that commitment will shine through in each frame.

Settle for no less than a professional with a proven track record to produce your heirloom photographs. My work with all different kinds of lighting, environments and wedding themes will ensure that no matter what your vision may be, I will capture it beautifully. It's important to me that you are thrilled not only with the photographs, but also with your entire experience, and so I strive for the highest level of service and responsiveness throughout our interactions.

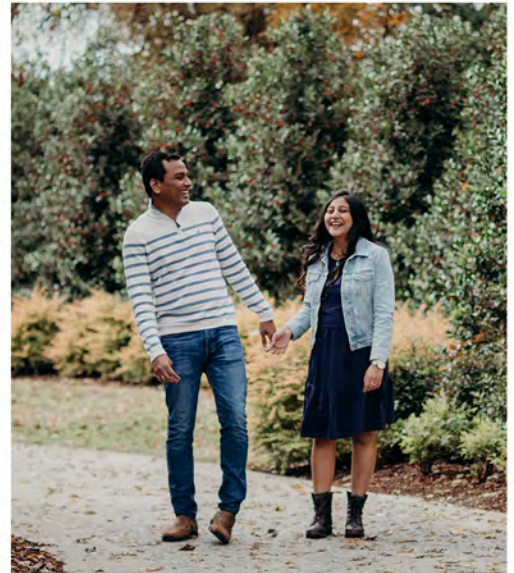
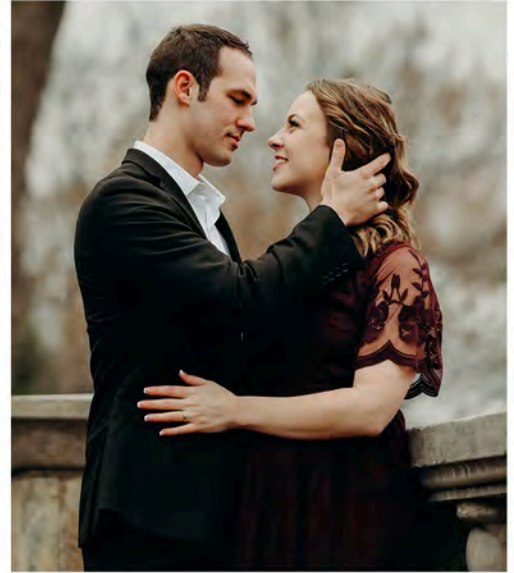


What to Expect

THE WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY PROCESS

At our initial consultation, either via Skype or in person, we'll spend some time getting to know each other. We can discuss your plans, your wedding date, and your vision for your perfect photographs. I'll guide you through the process of selecting a package that is right for you. Once you have signed a contract and paid a retainer fee, you can check "book photographer" off your to-do list!

- **At the time of booking:** A non-refundable retainer fee of half your total balance is due at the time of booking. This guarantees the time and date allotted for you.
- **6+ Weeks Before Your Wedding:** I will send a wedding schedule and checklist, so I can start planning your shoot.
- **3 Weeks Before Your Wedding:** Your final payment is due.
- **2 Weeks Before Your Wedding:** We confirm the details of your wedding schedule and checklist and address changes or questions.
- **Your Wedding Day:** I follow your wedding schedule as your day unfolds.
- **1-2 Week After Your Wedding:** Sneak peek images may be posted to Facebook and/or my blog for your family and friends to view.
- **6-8 Weeks After Your Wedding:** You'll receive a gallery link for all your edited photos. You can purchase prints and products and choose images for your custom album.
- **9-10 Weeks After Your Wedding:** Your wedding products and add on items arrive.



Engagement Sessions

CAPTURE THE START OF YOUR JOURNEY TOGETHER

"Every romance has to begin somewhere, and your engagement photos will show your family and friends the first chapter in your love story."

An engagement photo session can be a wonderful addition to your wedding album. Every romance has to begin somewhere, and your engagement photos will show your family and friends the first chapter in your love story.

Your engagement photoshoot will help me get to know you and help you to get comfortable being photographed. The resulting images can be used not only in your album, but also on your invitations, thank you notes or signing book.

The place where you first met; your favorite restaurant; the site of the proposal – any of these locations can make fun, informal, intimate engagement photos that help to tell the story of you.

Engagement sessions can be added onto any wedding and begin at \$220 an hour!



The Outfits

The most important thing is wearing something you're comfortable in! That new tight dress that you've never worn before might look beautiful, but if you're self-conscious or constantly adjusting, it will show in the photos.

Don't try to match, you don't want to look like twins on the first day of school! Instead wear complimenting colors.

Try to avoid super bright, neon colors. They distract from your lovely faces, I really love jewel tones!

Avoid loud patterns, logos, and texts on clothing.

Accentuate your waist! A-line dresses, or belts around your waist are very flattering.

Don't wear something too trendy, you don't want to look back in 10 years and think "what was I wearing??" We've all been there, hello dresses over jeans!

If you're wearing nail polish, make sure it's not chipped, we want to get a close-up of that ring!

Depending on the location, wear shoes that you can walk in but that still look presentable. Ladies, I love a thick wedge (stilettos in grass or dirt are a nightmare)

The Locations

Pick a location that describes you! You want a spot that is authentic just as much as it is gorgeous!

If you are outdoorsy and love to hike : try Arbor Hills Nature Preserve! It's a beautiful, rustic location that has open fields, tall grass, and wonderful golden light around sunset.

If you love the water and boating : try White Rock Lake. This spot has lots of small docks scattered throughout that make for a stunning backdrop.

If you like the outdoors but want something a little more manicured : try the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, or Grapevine Botanical Gardens. All locations are beautiful no matter the season and guarantee a colorful yet classy backdrop. Bonus! You can bring a picnic and get some pinterest worthy candid style images.

If you want something tropical and green, but rain is in the forecast or it's too cold for an outdoor shoot : try the Butterfly House at Texas Discovery Gardens. This indoor oasis is complete glass which provides gorgeous nature light.

If you want something urban with an eclectic feel : try Deep Ellum! There are tons of gorgeous murals and backdrops. This location can be casual and fun or classy and timeless depending on your outfits!

Pick your own! I am a big advocate of choosing a location that is personal to you! Your first date location, proposal location, your favorite coffee shop, etc. The options are endless!

Some Tips

1 Try to schedule your shoot about an hour before Sunset, this time will change depending on the season. The time is called "golden hour" because it creates a gorgeous golden light that is incredibly flattering. If you can't swing a sunset shoot or your location closes before then, aim for early morning when the sun is lowest in the sky!

2 Relax and have fun! I'd say about 90% of my clients have never taken photos professionally or feel super awkward in front of camera, so don't worry you are not alone! But after every session we're all laughing and having fun. You will probably feel a little awkward at first, but I promise I'll tell you what to do with your hands, and I'll make some awful jokes and you'll be feeling at ease in no time!

Sample Wedding Timeline

The key to a wedding day schedule that runs smoothly is communicating with your photographer about the events of the day and your must-have shots. I know that every wedding is different, but this is an ideal timeline example based on an early Fall 5pm ceremony. This example includes a first look, which most of my clients choose to do. Please keep in mind that every wedding is unique and your timeline may differ from the example below. Before your wedding, I will provide you with a form to fill out as this helps me gain a better understanding of your wedding day timeline, so I can help plan ahead for your big day.



1:30 - 2:00 THE DETAILS (jewelry, shoes, rings...)

2:00 - 3:00 WEDDING PARTIES GETTING READY

3:00 - 3:30 FIRST LOOK & ROMANTIC PORTRAITS

3:30 - 4:00 BRIDAL PARTY PORTRAITS

4:00 - 5:00 BRIDE IN HIDING AND RECEPTION DETAIL PORTRAITS

5:00 - 5:30 WEDDING CEREMONY

5:30 - 6:30 FAMILY PORTRAITS & REMAINING WEDDING PARTY

6:30 - 7:00 RECEPTION BEGINS

7:00 - 7:15 SUNSET PORTRAITS

7:15 - 8:00 DANCING

8:00 - 8:15 BRIDE & GROOM EXIT

Timing and Tips For

WINTER, SUMMER, FALL & SPRING

Winter

Winter weddings are great! Usually you can find discounted prices on lots of wedding vendors. However, they do come with a little more planning. Usually we'll only have light until around 5:30pm, so earlier weddings are much preferred! If you're still doing a late afternoon ceremony I highly recommend a first look otherwise we won't be able to get many formal portraits.

Fall

Fall is the most popular time for weddings, which means vendors book up quickly! If you're able to snag a Fall date look forward to cooler weather and gorgeous colors. Sunset times change drastically during this season (curse you daylight savings!) So we'll be in touch to create the perfect timeline.

Summer

Summer weddings give you the most amount of available light, sometimes until 8:30pm! This is both a blessing and a curse. You can have a much later ceremony with tons of getting ready photos, but the light can be quite harsh outdoors until around 5:30pm. Plus you'll have to brave the heat! Fans are great favors for guests!

Spring

Spring is a great wedding season IF your venue has a solid rain plan for your ceremony! You can expect lots of colors, lush greens and cooler temperatures! There is a good amount of daylight, but the sun still sets early enough that you can have a late afternoon wedding and still get that fantastic light!

It's Forecast to Rain? Now What?

So you've been checking the weather daily and you just saw the dreaded "90% chance of rain" on your wedding day. Now what? I'm here to tell you it's going to be okay, I promise. Here are a couple tips for turning the table on the rainy day blues.

- 1 Talk to your venue ASAP. I don't recommend booking with any venue that doesn't have a foolproof rain plan, this can be a gorgeous indoor space that you love, high white tents, etc. You'll feel much less stressed if you know that your venue has you covered (literally) before you even see rain in the forecast.
- 2 Weather proof your attire. For shoes this can be with a finishing spray, heel protectors. For your dress, see if you can fasten a bustle, this will prevent your dress from dragging in the rain and the mud.
- 3 Make some adjustments to hair and makeup. For your hair, embrace your natural texture. If you have curly hair, wear it curly, straight wear it straight. For makeup, waterproof EVERYTHING. I'm also a big fan of tubing mascaras, they come off in little tubes so you never have to worry about it running or smudging and is much easier to wipe away.
- 4 Stay positive! I know that seems tough, but some of my favorite images have come from rainy weddings. There is something so magical about rain in photos, it adds a touch of whimsy and romanticism. I come prepared with loads of clear umbrellas, so we can get all the shots we need. I also offer discounted day after sessions on rainy days in case you'd like another go.





The Little Things

“The little things combine to make a big impression at your big event”

You spent a lot of time selecting the cake, choosing the flowers, dreaming about the rings. These are the details that help make your wedding special; they are expressions of you. The little things combine to make a big impression at your big event, and I will represent them with the care and artistry they deserve.

Below you will find a list of the most common wedding details that I shoot for brides and grooms. Please gather these items before I arrive so that I have plenty of time to photograph these important details of your wedding.

Bride's checklist:

Dress
Veil / hair piece
Shoes
Jewelry
Rings (all 3)
Perfume
Bouquet
Vows (if applicable)
Wedding stationary

Groom's checklist:

Cuff Links
Shoes
Watch
Cologne
Boutonnière
Vows (if applicable)



Getting Ready

It's finally here! After all the planning and coordinating, your day has arrived. Now is the time for you to relax and **have fun!** If there are any last minute tasks or set up, now is the time to delegate. This is your moment, enjoy it!

There are a few things to consider for this allotted time, I recommend planning them out before hand to eliminate as much stress as possible day of.

- Do you want to give a gift or note to your fiancée Who will be delivering it? Do you want me to take photos of you both opening and/or reading?
- Do you want to do a First Look?
- Do you want a First Look with a member of your family? Your bridesmaids?

Makeup Tips

#1 Don't use any new products the weeks before the wedding. You don't want to have an adverse reaction or breakout from anything new. If you're going to get a facial make sure they use products you've used before (a good excuse to get multiple facials!)

#2 Exfoliate and hydrate! If you do both these things your skin will *glow*. I like to use a physical based scrub and a chemical (look for AHA's) This will also help your makeup go on smoother.

#3 If you're worried about bags or under-eye circles, keep your eye cream in the fridge and press cold spoons to your eyes to take down the puffiness. Use a pink based concealer to cancel out the darkness. Look for one that doesn't crease as easily. I really like the Fenty Beauty concealers.

#4 Do a trial run. Whether you're hiring a makeup artist or doing your makeup yourself make sure you do a full face before the wedding. Put it through the tests, is your mascara really waterproof, does your foundation rub off after one hug?

#5 Bring a touch-up kit. Your makeup will likely fade throughout the day. A little extra blush and a colored lip gloss will go a long way in freshing up your face!

Hair Tips

3 months before visit your hair stylist and do a practice run! Make sure you bring lots of examples, your stylist will know what works best for your hair texture. Do not be afraid to hurt their feelings, if there is something you want to change, speak up!

5 weeks before get a trim, this will make your hair look shinier and healthier. But no major haircuts now until the wedding!

1 week before if you have your hair colored get a root touch up.

Day before give your hair a good wash, use your normal shampoo and conditioner so you know how your hair will react. But maybe try a hair mask for extra softness and shine. Typically two day hair holds better, so if you're getting an up-do a little extra grit will benefit you.

Day of when you shower clip your hair up and out of the water and then let your stylist work their magic!





First Look vs. Traditional

"Having a 'first look' does offer many benefits. The more time I have with the two of you together, the more opportunity we'll have to create the special images you'll love."

The schedule I'll follow in photographing your wedding will depend largely on whether you and your intended choose to get a glimpse of each other before the ceremony or take a more traditional route of staying separate until the big moment. Having a "first look" does offer many benefits. The more time I have with the two of you together, the more opportunity we'll have to create the special images you'll love. You'll enjoy a more low-key, leisurely time leading up to the ceremony, and seeing each other before the event can go a long way toward reducing those pre-wedding nerves. Some couples might be concerned that a first look will diminish that magic moment when the bride walks down the aisle, but in fact, that instant when your eyes meet will be just as special whether you've gotten a preview or not. If you're together before the ceremony, it will allow us to get your formal portraits done beforehand so you can relax a bit and enjoy your day.

Whether you decide to have a first look or take the more traditional approach, keep in mind that the best light for romantic, beautiful portraits is in the hours before-sunset. Depending on the time of your wedding, for a Summer wedding you might want to wait to take your formal portraits until after the ceremony to coincide with that ideal time. And for Winter, with less available light, we might not have as much portrait time if we wait until after the ceremony.

We can still get a lot of great shots before the ceremony, even if you choose not to see each other beforehand. I'll complete a session with each side of the wedding party. That way, we can cut down on the amount of time set aside for portraits after the ceremony. Usually I'll begin about an hour before the ceremony is scheduled to begin. We'll be sure to finish in time for everyone to get ready for the ceremony on time.

I am happy to work with what ever you've decided!



An Unplugged Ceremony

Picture your wedding. You're walking down the aisle, your gown is perfect, your flowers are perfect, you see your fiancée looking at you, beaming. And then a phone rings, you look to your right and instead of seeing your family and friends smiling at you, you see multiple tiny little screens.

This is why I encourage all of my couples to consider an unplugged ceremony. Asking your guests to unplug and refrain from using devices doesn't have to be scary. I recommend a multi part action plan.

- 1** Display some sort of sign in an easy to see space. There are tons of these available on Etsy, I even saw one at Target!
- 2** Ask your officiant to make an announcement before the ceremony asking all guests to silence and put away their phones. Remind your guests that you have paid for a photographer and they will be able to post and share as many of those photos as they please!
- 3** Have a designated photo-op where everyone can get a photo. This way they feel like they're still involved and capturing the moment but without disturbing. This can be right at the beginning of the ceremony and then everyone puts away their phone, or afterwards during formal portraits.
- 4** Allow the reception to be "plugged in". Encourage your guests that you'd like to be present and not posing for hundreds of photos, but give them the option if they'd like.

Family Formals

To keep the family photos as streamlined as possible, on your wedding day I try to work from this list below. I suggest you discuss this with your families beforehand to determine if there are any photos they would like done. Please keep in mind that the amount of formal photographs I can take is contingent upon the time block allotted. There are no limits to the groups except time, with each group taking anywhere between 5-7 minutes per photograph.

Below are the standard family group photos that I take. This standard set usually takes 45 minutes to complete, depending on the number of people in each family, how well organized the family is, etc. Of course every family is different, and these groupings are not mandatory. Please feel free to modify, add or delete any of the groups.

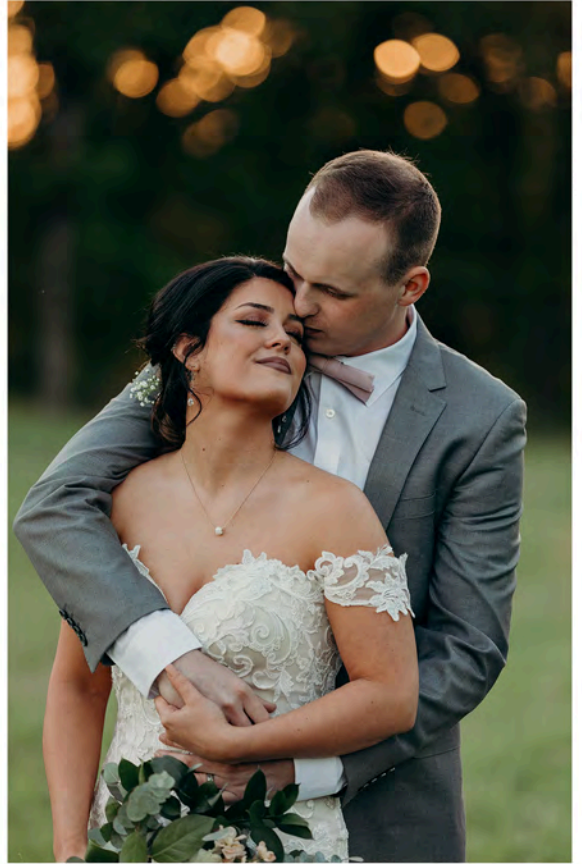
If you opt to have more than the standard groupings described below, I ask you to appoint a Family Portrait Monitor – someone to manage your list of extra shots and track down the necessary people, in order to keep things running efficiently.

- Bride with her mom and dad.
- Bride with her mom.
- Bride with her dad.
- Bride and groom with her mom and dad.
- Bride and groom with her immediate family.
- Bride and groom with her immediate family and grandparents.
- Bride and groom with each set of grandparents.
- Groom with his mom and dad.
- Groom with his mom.
- Groom with his dad.
- Groom and bride with his mom and dad.
- Groom and bride with his immediate family.
- Groom and bride with his immediate family and grandparents.
- Groom and bride with each set of grandparents.

For divorced and blended families I swap in and out people to make sure that you have one with everyone included in the same shot but that each parent also has a photo with just their relevant family members. Please let me know ahead of time if there are any sensitive groupings that I should be aware of (for example a death, or family member that don't get along.)

I recommend keeping the family groupings under 15 people. I'm happy to include extended family group poses if you (or your family members) wish, but like to warn you ahead of time that the quality suffers in very large group photos.





Romantic Portraits

“Weddings can be a whirlwind, it is so nice to have these intimate moments gazing into each others eyes and just taking in the moment of being married. That’s what I love about these photos.”

Romantic portraits are my favorite photos from the whole day! Not only are they beautiful photos but they are also a moment my newly married couples can have alone. Weddings can be a whirlwind, it is so nice to have these intimate moments gazing into each others eyes and just taking in the moment of being married. That’s what I love about these photos.

I recommend doing these portraits after family and wedding party photos are wrapped up (usually right after the ceremony). These photos typically take place during the cocktail hour portion, this is great because it keeps your guests occupied (and fed!) The amount of time you dedicate to these portraits is totally up to you! If you choose to refrain from doing a First Look I recommend allotting more time after the ceremony.

I also love to capture a couple sunset or nighttime photos of just the two of you. We can sneak away during the dancing for 15 minutes and capture some stunning images!

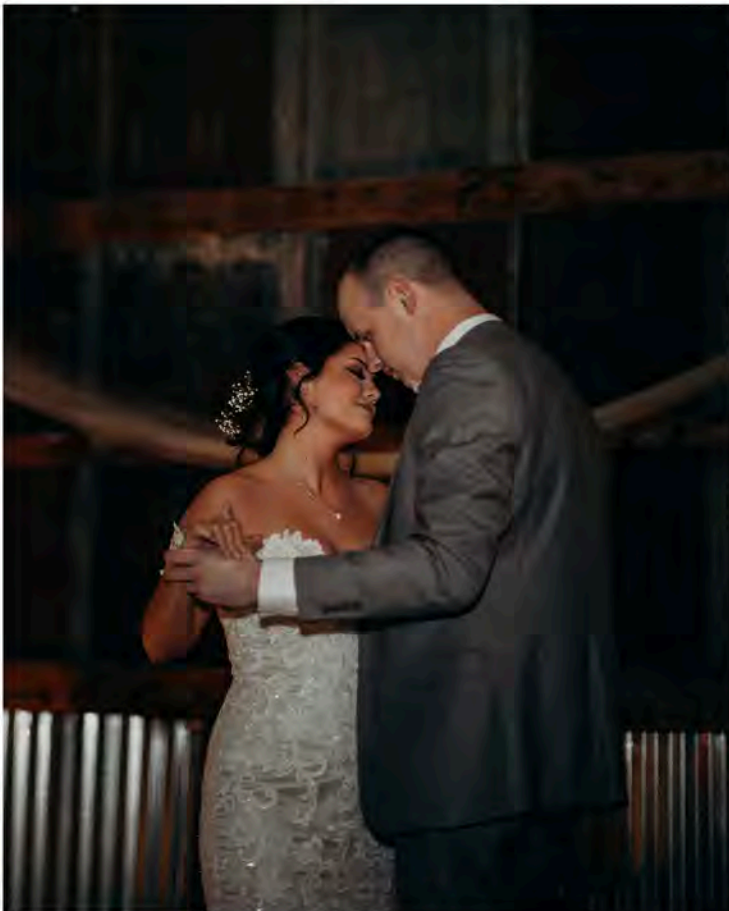
I promise these are the images you’re going to want more of! If your schedule simply doesn’t allow enough time for these images, or if the weather doesn’t cooperate, I offer day after sessions (they can be more than a day after if you prefer!) This is a regularly scheduled session just wearing your wedding attire, it can be at your venue or another location!



Reception Details

Your wedding reception should be a carefree time to bask in the joy of your new marriage with family and friends. A stress-free time right? It can be if you plan and layout your wedding reception timeline in advance with your coordinator and DJ/Band. It should be an hour-by-hour breakdown of the events, taking into account things like the first dance, dinner, cake cutting and bouquet toss. This way you can relax and enjoy yourself!

The average length of a wedding reception is between 3 and 5 hours long. Here is a list of events that typically happen at a traditional wedding reception:



- Newlywed & bridal party introduction
- Newlyweds first dance
- Welcome speech or blessing
- Dinner service
- Toasts
- Father-daughter dance
- Mother-son dance
- Anniversary dance (my favorite!)
- Everyone dances
- Cake cutting
- Bouquet and garter toss
- Last dance
- Bride and Groom exit

Preserving Your Day

"When the vows have been said, you'll want a physical reminder of the joy you experienced"

When the vows have been said, the wedding day has passed and your warm memories remain, you'll want a physical reminder of the joy you experienced; a work of art you can hold in your hands and share with those you love. While digital images have their benefits, they can't replace a beautiful, handcrafted wedding album as a cherished family heirloom.

SAVE THE DATES. You've decided to tie the knot, and you want everyone to be there. Let them know with save-the-date cards printed with the beautiful photos from your engagement portrait session. I have many styles for your consideration, and letting us handle this detail will make your wedding planning that much easier.

WEDDING ALBUMS. The only thing more important than the beauty of your wedding album is the quality. Our handcrafted heirloom albums are made to be passed down from generation to generation. I'll help you choose from a variety of looks, materials, sizes and textures to create an album that fits your personality and the style and theme of your wedding.

PARENT ALBUMS. Your wedding means almost as much to your parents as it does to you. Show them your love and your thanks by letting me create albums of your wedding just for them. Many clients choose a scaled-down version of their own albums to give to their parents, but we have a wide array of choices that can be fully customized to meet your needs.

GUEST SIGN IN BOOK. Capture the advice and well wishes of your family and friends with a beautiful guest sign in book. Your book will showcase your favorite engagement photos. It's sure to become a treasured keepsake. You'll love to look at on your first, tenth, even 50th anniversary!

FINE PRINTS. Snapping the right photo is only the beginning of the artistic process. I'll take those gorgeous images and create fine prints that are beautiful, striking and unforgettable. I offer prints in various sizes and textures that bring a distinct look and feel to art works that will become centerpieces in your home.

WALL CANVAS. Let me create the feel of a fine painting by printing your favorite image from your wedding onto archival canvas, which is then stretched onto a wooden frame, creating an art work that is ready to hang on the wall of your home. Similar to fine-art photos displayed in galleries, your image will be a breathtaking reminder of the happiness you share.

ENGAGEMENT ALBUMS. You love your engagement photos. They deserve to be displayed in a beautiful coffee table book with advice and words of wisdom from family and friends. I offer a variety of sizes, styles and paper to perfectly complement your personality and your wedding theme.

CYBER PRODUCTS. Chances are, you live much of your life online. My wide range of digital products and designs ensure you'll have just the right images for Facebook, your wedding website, your laptop background and much more.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if it rains?

I recommend for all my clients to have a rainy day backup plan that they love. It could be an indoor/outdoor space, tents, etc. I have photographed numerous rainy weddings, I come prepared with lots of clear umbrellas. I promise we'll get some great shots.

Do we need a second photographer?

It's not necessary but helps tell a full and complete story of your wedding day.

Can we send you a shot list or Pinterest board?

I am all for understanding your vision and priorities, but I urge you not to rely too much on Pinterest, your wedding is going to be unique to you. If we try to emulate other photos your images won't be authentic. My style is very candid, I like to document the day as it is. However, I highly recommend a shot list for family photos!

What add-on session do you like best?

It totally depends on each couple! I love engagement sessions so we can warm up to each other and then you can use those images for save the dates and invitations. But if there's not much time allocated for bridal and romantic portraits I love a bridal or day after session.

What if we want you to stay longer?

Just ask! I only book one wedding a day so that I can accommodate you as much as possible. If that means that things move a little slow throughout the day and we run out of time or you just want shots of y'all ordering a midnight pizza. I gotcha! I'll send you an invoice after the wedding.

How many images do we receive?

This totally depends from wedding to

When do we get to see our images?

You will receive a link to your Online gallery 6-8 weeks after your wedding. I like to do a sneak peek 1-2 weeks after either in the form of a highlight gallery or a blog post.

Can I print my images myself?

You can, though I highly recommend printing through my lab. Not only is it directly linked to your gallery so super easy, but it's the only way I can guarantee gorgeous quality prints.

How do I order an album?

In your Online gallery you tag the images you'd like included. I then create a custom design mock-up. Once that's approved I send it off to the lab and then deliver it straight to your door!

What is an Online gallery?

This is how I deliver all my photos, It's password protected and easy to share with friends and family. You can download full resolution images to your computer or phone. The gallery is live for one year, so make sure you save your photos in a safe spot!

What equipment do you use?

I'm a Canon user, I have been since I was 14! I use the 5D line and have a variety of lenses and flashes to best serve each situation.

What if I need to cancel my wedding?

I sure hope that doesn't happen! But in the event of a cancellation I need a written cancellation notice. The retainer is non-refundable.

What if you get sick or can't make it?

I will be at your wedding. In the event of the worst possible scenario I have many fellow photographer friends whom I trust with my life to step in.







PLEASE CONTACT US
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OR QUESTIONS.

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