Choosing wedding photographers and videographers

Contributed by Felecity Phillips Wednesday, 21 November 2007

Our recommendation for, both the bride and groom is to always carry a note pad and pen to write down important information and questions that may arise during your interview.

Interview at least 4 photographers and at least 4 videographers.

The photography and videography are one of the most important aspects of your wedding. There are many ways to cut wedding costs, your photography is not one of them. One should hire the very best photographer. What was preserved in pictures, will not only become a cherished keepsake, but will pass on to your children as a part of your family legacy.

Another added touch to having a photographer, provide your guests with disposable cameras and ask them to take spontaneous pictures and leave the cameras on the table so you can have them developed. These pictures will be much less expensive than the photographers and should supply you with enough pictures to add to your wedding picture collection.

Before you meet with the photographers and videographers, one should take note to write down exactly what you want captured prior to and on your wedding day. Also make a list of all the photos and events you want taken before the wedding, during the ceremony, at the reception, and after the wedding so you can inform the photographer and videographer.

Another point to point out is that may wish to appoint a person and explain exactly what you may want captured during your wedding. Professional photographers and videographers are very busy. Start your search as early as possible, after you set the wedding date, secure the locations for your ceremony and reception and confirm the date with your officiate.

Follow the guidelines set by your wedding venue.

Choose the photographer and videographer carefully. Check their portfolio to assure that they will deliver what you have in mind. Consider not only the quality of the pictures but also the creativity of the photographer and videographer. Your wedding photos will be the memory of your special day forever.

One may consider having the photographer take your engagement and other pre-wedding photographs. This will benefit you because you'll see the quality of their work and you'll get to spend time with them to be able to decide if indeed they are right for you.

Information for your photographer and videographer to know.

What style of photography - videography do you want?

How large is your wedding?

Will you have an indoor or an outdoor wedding?

The time of year?

The Time of day?

Formal or Informal?

What to Expect from the photographers:

A business card of each person you will be doing business with.

Their contact information including cell phone, email, and web site address.

A brochure that explains what is offered and any exclusions, rules, regulations and options.

References and samples of their work.

Once you made the choice, you need to receive a written contract signed by the person in charge, and dated. This contract must include all of your responsibilities and all of the responsibilities, warranties, and guarantees offered. Be sure that you understand it fully and agree with all the terms. If you have questions, concerns, or are uncertain, contact them for clarification.

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