

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY TIMELINE CHECKLIST

A SIMPLE, STRESS-FREE WAY TO PLAN YOUR WEDDING PHOTOS



Created by a wedding photographer with real experience

BEFORE YOU START PLANNING YOUR WEDDING TIMELINE

Planning your wedding photography timeline isn't about squeezing in as many photos as possible.

It's about creating space for real moments – without feeling rushed. Before building your timeline, take a moment to think about what truly matters to you.

- ✓ What moments matter most to us?

- ✓ How important are family photos to us?

- ✓ Do we want a first look or not?

- ✓ Do we want time just for the two of us?



GETTING READY PHOTOS

Some of the most emotional wedding photos happen before the ceremony — but this part of the day often needs more time than expected.

CHECKLIST:

Hair & makeup buffer time

Hair and makeup often take longer than planned, especially with multiple people involved. Adding a small buffer helps keep the morning calm and prevents the day from starting in a rush.

Dress, rings, and details ready in one place

Having all important items together saves time and avoids unnecessary stress. It also allows your photographer to capture these details naturally, without interrupting the flow of the morning.

A calm space with good natural light

A quiet room with natural light makes a noticeable difference in both the photos and the overall mood. Fewer distractions help everyone feel more relaxed and present.

Important people present (parents, close friends)

If there are people you want close during this part of the day, make sure they're nearby. These moments often turn into meaningful photos you didn't even plan for.

Tip: Rushing the morning often sets the tone for the entire day.

FIRST LOOK VS NO FIRST LOOK

First Look – works well if you want:

- ✓ More relaxed portraits
- ✓ Less pressure after the ceremony
- ✓ A private moment together

No First Look – works well if you prefer:

- ✓ Keeping the tradition
- ✓ Seeing each other for the first time at the ceremony
- ✓ Strong emotional reactions

*There's no right or wrong choice —
only what feels right for you.*

CEREMONY & FAMILY PHOTOS

This part of the day brings everyone together.
With a bit of planning, it can feel calm, meaningful, and easy to enjoy.

CHECKLIST:

- Ceremony time planned with lighting in mind
- Family photo list prepared in advance
- Extra time for group photos
- A few quiet moments built into the schedule





COUPLE PHOTOS & RECEPTION

This is when the pace slows down and the focus shifts back to the two of you. Giving this part of the day enough space allows for natural moments, real connection, and photos that feel effortless.

CHECKLIST:

- Time for couple portraits after the ceremony
- Golden hour photos (if possible)
- First dance and toasts planned with enough light
- Space for candid moments

Some of the best photos happen when you forget the camera is there.

WHEN SHOULD YOU BOOK YOUR WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER?

Most couples book their photographer 8–12 months in advance, especially for popular wedding seasons.

CHECKLIST:

- Wedding date confirmed
- Venue booked
- General style defined
- Budget range decided

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

Common mistakes couples make (and how to avoid them)

- ✗ Booking based on price alone
- ✗ Not reviewing full galleries
- ✗ Not planning enough time for portraits
- ✗ Skipping engagement sessions
- ✗ Hiring someone without wedding experience

Meet your photographer

ALEXANDRA GÓMEZ



“If you think photos aren't important, wait until that's all you have left.” -Anonymous.

Hi, I'm Alexandra — a wedding and family photographer based in Philadelphia.

I believe wedding photography should feel effortless, natural, and timeless.

I guide my couples every step of the way so they can fully enjoy their day while I take care of capturing the moments that matter most.