**HIRING A PHOTOGRAPHER**

This is one of the most crucial decisions you’ll make, not because the others aren’t important, but

because this becomes the one tangible thing you have 10 years from now. The food becomes a

distant memory, your beautiful flowers, well they fade. The location you’ll always remember, who

attended and that reminder of how much you loved each other that day is the one thing you can

capture and keep.

So here are 33 important questions to ask your photographer. And unless you’ve seen their work

and their style via a referral, don’t just hire the first person you talk to. Do some research, have

conversations. You are the one interviewing them, and they need to fit you as a couple, your style

and feel for your special day.

**Your first and most important question is are you available!** If they aren’t, you may as well move

on.

There are some really great photographers that may not be right for you; because they only shoot

traditional shots, and so, may not be able to capture that moment you both jump into the ocean in

your wedding outfits, or they need to be able to roll with the fact that you’re coming in on

horseback, or whatever it is that makes your day you!

You may not need to ask all of these questions, but most, will apply.

IF this is a destination wedding, then you’ll have to make sure they know that!

Oh, and if possible make sure you see their photos in a physical portfolio, most photographers will

have one, it’s easy to touch up digital images, but how they process hard copies is really important.

When you meet, even if it’s via Skype/Facetime (because you’re doing a destination wedding),

make sure you have a clear idea of your own style, because they will have questions for you as

well.

If you’re doing something out of the box, ask them how they feel about it, and watch their

reaction.

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And don’t forget, you’re making the decision about them, not the other way around!

**QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER:**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

What is your style?

Do you prefer formal portraits, candid or a combination?

Do you primarily shoot weddings?

Can we see an album of one entire wedding?

Can we see indoor and outdoor shots?

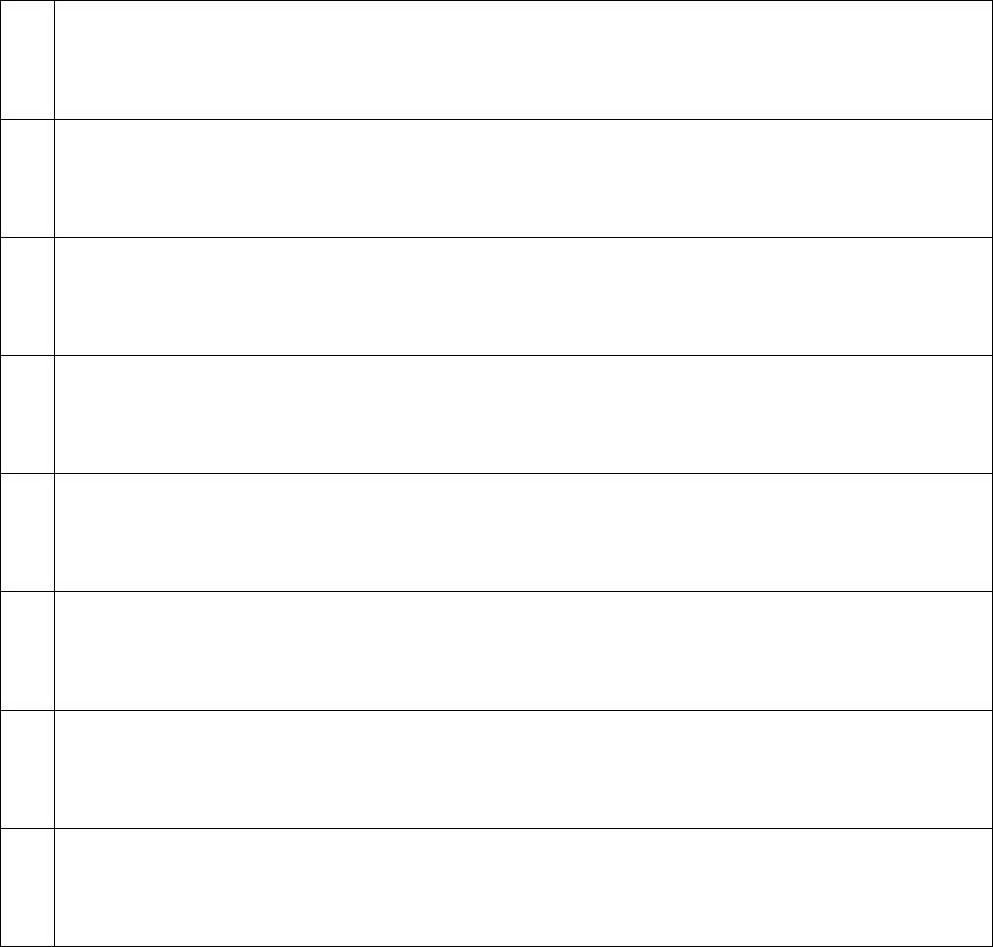
If you have a tight budget. Will they split their day (pre wedding/wedding shoot) then

(reception)?

How long do you think the formal pictures will take? (Before and after the ceremony)

Approximately how many shots will be taken?

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10.

11.

12.

How will we see/access our proofs?

How many proofs will we see?

What exactly is included in your wedding day package? Please itemize.

13. Does the (your quoted fee) include all processing?

14. Do you include any albums/photo-books in the cost? IF SO:

How much for each additional album?

How many shots in an album?

Can we prioritize the layout/order?

Are all the album shots the same size?

Can we add pages to an album, if so, what’s the cost per page?

Do we get to choose the type of album?

15.

16.

Do we get a digital file of all our photos?

Do you provide prints as well? How many?

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17.

18.

Do we get to keep the proofs as part of the package/and the digital files?

What kind of camera do you use? Are you prepared for evening shots and possibly a day

where it’s pouring with rain and the light is poor? Or super bright sunshine? Do you have the

equipment to handle all kinds of lighting?

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

Do you bring backup equipment?

Do you retouch your images?

We don’t want to see each other before the ceremony…

Will you work off a prepared shot list?

How many photographers/assistants will be shooting our wedding?

What is their experience level?

24.

If you’re ill, who will photograph our wedding? Can we see this person’s work?

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25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

How long after the wedding will we see proofs?

How long after we make our proof selections will we receive the prints and/or albums?

What is your ordering process? Online?

What do you normally wear to shoot a wedding?

How much of a deposit is required?

Do you offer a contract?

When is the remaining amount due to you?

What is your cancellation policy?

Do you have liability insurance?

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POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHER

1.

2.

3.

Where are you having your ceremony & reception?

Will they be indoors or outdoors?

What type of venue?

4.

5.

6.

7.

What time of day (sunset or high noon)

How many guests

How big is your wedding party?

What style of wedding are you having? Formal, beachwear, ranch casual, etc.

8.

9.

What style of photos do you want?

Do you have a list of the types of photos you want taken? Candid, black & white, formal.

10. What are your priority shots? Just the two of you, or the wedding party/family

11. Do you have a list of the group shots you want done? Who can’t we miss, ie. Grandma

12. What’s your photography budget?

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