

MCPHERSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Planning Guide

People tend to be more relaxed and able to have fun, when there is plenty of time allotted for photos.



Time Line For Photography Planning Enough Time Is Key

By Paul McPherson

Scheduling Time For Photographs

One of the most important considerations of your wedding day is when to schedule photographs and for how long.

Before or After... That Is The Question

There are a number of ways to deal with getting photos of the wedding party, family and most importantly, romantic shots of the couple.

Post-Ceremony

Traditionally, most photographs were taken after the ceremony. It is my experience that in the hectic aftermath of the ceremony, people are not as focused on photography and their energy is lowered. Often there is simply not enough time to get all the photos completed.

It would not be my choice to do most of the photography afterwards. I would strongly suggest that much of the photography is completed before the ceremony. I am also aware that my job as your wedding photographer is to provide you with photographs in

the manner that you request, and I will adhere to whatever guidelines you like. However, I feel it is my duty to at least suggest ways to make your day less hectic and to provide you with photographs that are as good as they can be.

Pre-Ceremony

Doing the photographs after the ceremony causes the groom to see his bride for the first time when she walks down the aisle. An alternative to seeing the bride for the first time in a very public manner, is to have what I call a "special moment". The scene is set with the groom all alone before the ceremony, waiting to see his bride in her gown for the first time. The bride comes from behind and taps him on the shoulder. In this very private moment, they are able to freely share their affection without hundreds of prying eyes.

Photography done in this manner creates an atmosphere that is intimate and relaxing for the bride and groom. Group shots can now be created without distractions.

I am often asked to photograph formal group shots of the family members and the bridal party, but if you wish to skip these poses, it would be fine with me. Less of the formal group shots allows more photographs to be taken of the bride and groom.

Scheduling Time For Pre-Ceremony Photographs

I like to arrive at the wedding location around the time the bride is getting dressed for candid shots of her and her bridesmaids. This should happen about 2.5 to 3 hours before the ceremony.

The bride will usually need about 45 minutes to get ready.

The next step is to spend about 30 minutes photographing the bride and groom.

That is followed up with one hour of group shots which allows the bride to go hide about 45 minutes before the ceremony begins.