

Photos your photographer won't take at your wedding....unless you ask for them!

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By Bill Collins

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It has been my experience, with 40 years as a wedding photographer, that the most forgotten people when it comes to photos at a wedding are often the individual parents of the bride and/or groom.

Most photographers will be sure to include the parents in photos with the bride and groom, but most will never think to inquire about doing groups of the individual dads of the bride or groom with all his brothers and sisters who are present at the wedding. And of course, the same is true with the individual moms of the bridal couple, too.

While you're getting these photos taken, be sure to include any parents and grand-parents of those brothers and sisters that are there, too, to capture their entire core family group in photos.

A wedding is almost the perfect place to take these kind of photos with the individual parents and their siblings. Everyone in the families has gathered for the big event, many times from far flung regions of the country.

Their child's wedding may well be the first time the brothers and sisters have gotten together in years. It may be many years in the future before they are ever together again. If the opportunity to take these group photos is passed over because nobody thought much about the importance of this fleeting opportunity, then those photos may end up never being captured. These photos often turn out to be the most important and most appreciated of all the photos I take regularly at the wedding.

I'd be willing to bet that less than 10 percent of wedding photographers plying their trade today know to get these photos for you. You will have to specifically ask for them to be taken, or they just won't be done!

Other important people that most photographers will probably overlook photographing for you at the wedding, unless you give them your written photo request list, are the bride and/or groom's god

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parents, groups of the bride and/or groom's co-workers, high school friends, youth camp friends, fellow fraternity and sorority members, fellow sports team members for high school or college.

The one thing no wedding photographer can do is look at a room full of total strangers and figure out how they interlock with each other just by looking! I gave up trying to do that after photographing my very first wedding 40 years ago! Now I send each bride an email before the wedding requesting exactly this sort of information, so that I don't end up missing anyone of importance to the bridal couple on their special day.

You will want to see to it that your wedding photographer is thoroughly armed with this often overlooked information, so that they will get these photos for you. Remember, your wedding photographer can't read your mind when it comes to who among those present on your wedding are important to you and need to be photographed with you.

You might also help make getting these photos easier for your photographer by making sure that the people who are going to be included in these special group photos are told to be available for the photos being taken when the other groups are done...either before or immediately after the wedding ceremony.

You will not want to be trying to pull these groups together at the reception, because getting them all together at the same time at the reception is often one of the most difficult things you'll do on your wedding day. It is better to avoid doing these photos at the reception altogether, if possible and get them done early in the day.

Also, be sure that all the people to be included in your photos know to stay in the room the photos are being taken until all the groups are done. If someone slips off because they think they are through being photographed and it turns out that they are needed for an impromptu additional last minute group request, everything grinds to a halt photo-wised, until someone tracks them down and brings the back.

If you aren't careful, this could be repeated over and over again as various people slip outside for a smoke or to use the restroom after their group as been taken. When this happens, it can extend the time needed for the photos by as much as an extra half hour...and that time is probably cutting into your reception time, too.

A lot of churches today have church services scheduled pretty soon after the wedding concludes, so many times the photographer ends up being rushed timewise on getting the group photos for you. I've had priests tell me immediately after the receiving line concludes, "You have only 20 minutes to get all your groups done. We've got a church service starting soon."

In my email to be bride before the wedding date, I always try to avoid having this happen by asking if there is a church service planned for after the wedding...and, if so, how soon will it begin after the wedding . I point out that everyone will need to RUSH back in immediately if we are crowded for time by the church. Don't let others complicate it for your photographer by them slipping out of the room before all the group photos are taken.

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40 years experience. Now earning his living as a full time exclusively—weddings photographer serving IN/OH/KY. and offering high value wedding photo packages and digital wedding coverage.

Selecting The Right Wedding Photographer

By George Meszaros

Hiring the right photographer is an essential task in planning your wedding. You need to make sure that you choose an experienced photographer. It is not crucial that the photographer is an experienced wedding photographer. An experienced photographer, not specializing in weddings, may be much less expensive than a wedding photographer specialist.

The pictures in your wedding album should contain some of your most important memories. A photographer should have the ability to artfully capture the most special moments of your wedding celebration. It is these unexpected and emotional moments that will help create a wonderful wedding album. Your wedding album is one piece of memorabilia you want to feel proud of when you show it to family and friends. Your photographs should tell the story of your wedding day. Only a good photographer can fill your wedding album with unforgettable pictures. One important aspect of hiring a photographer is personal style and preference. You should view photographs in the photographer's portfolio to make sure the style is in line with your desires. It is possible that you and the photographer have incompatible tastes and opinion on what your wedding album should look like. Remember, that photography is art and it is highly subjective. For this reason, it is crucial you find a professional who you'll feel comfortable with, and whose work stands out from any other photographer you'll be meeting with.

Don't hire the first photographer you meet. Even if he is highly recommended make sure you evaluate several photographers. Don't take anyone's word for it, check the photographer's portfolio. Compare quality and price of each candidates. Most of the time your reception site will have a few preferred photographer's to choose from, but it should not stop you from doing your own research.

Get everything in writing, and look for guarantees. Many photographers offer their wedding albums with lifetime guarantee.

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