



QUESTIONS FOR
POTENTIAL WEDDING
PHOTOGRAPHERS

RATHKOPF **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Choosing wedding photographers can be a daunting task. Regardless of if you are hiring Rathkopf Photography or another studio, we have created a list of questions to help you find the perfect photographer for your wedding day.

1. What is your primary style?

This should be your first question as this is the style of photography that interests you and captures your day the way you have in your mind. We are primarily photojournalism inspired photographers interested in capturing real people and real moments. Instead of creating picture perfect scenes for every moment, we capture the truth and realism in the actual moment. With that being said, we also include formal family portraits depending on our clients' wishes since we appreciate the power of posed portraiture.



2. Have you shot weddings similar to mine?

This is a great question to see if your photographers have a specific event they can show you so that you can imagine more clearly how they will capture yours.

3. Will a contract of the services be provided? If so, can I get a copy?

There are a lot of studios that don't create contracts for their wedding photography clients. You should require a contract from your photographer that details what services they will be providing, pricing, termination resolution terms, etc. A contract is created for your protection, and for the wedding photographer's protection. It is best to hire a photographer that will build a contract with you, and be wary of photographers that "don't typically create contracts for clients."

4. What happens if the photographer is ill?

While it is unlikely that the photographer happens to get ill on your wedding day, there is still a chance. It is crucial that the photography studio does something to take care of the situation in case of illness.

Rathkopf Photography is never ill :) BUT.... we do have

a network of trusted photographers to call on if the unimaginable happens.

5. Do you have insurance?

Professional wedding photographers should have the proper insurance for their business. Insurance provides liability protection in case a guest happens to get injured.

Rathkopf Photography carries general business, equipment and liability insurance.

6. Does the package I am interested in include a second shooter and/or assistant?

If your wedding has 50 or more guests, you should make sure you step up to a package that has a second photographer. Aside from the wedding site, there are many moments in which one single photographer cannot cover completely alone. There is no way to capture the first kiss, and at the same time, turn around and get the crowd reacting.



7. Will you color correct my images?

Since color correction is basic post-production, it should be used on every single image. Many photographers will not color correct any, or will only color correct “select” images from your wedding. This means that you may have a lot of pictures where your skin tones are orange, yellow, red or even blue.

Rathkopf Photography color corrects every image from your wedding to make sure each and every image is a professional quality product.



8. Do you have backup for your equipment?

Nothing would be worse than for the photographer to miss half of your weddings because his/her camera or lens broke, and he/she didn't have a spare. We have backups of every single camera body, lens, memory card, lighting Everything!

9. Should my event last longer than scheduled, will you stay? Is there an extra charge?

Knowing up front the photographer's policy on overages is critical. You don't want to be surprised when your wedding photographer asks for an additional \$1,000 before they release your pictures to you. Even worse, you don't want your wedding photographer to just pack up and leave when their time is up.

10. What attire will the photographer(s) wear?

Even though the wedding photographers are a big part of the wedding day, it's important that they are not distractions. As such, it's important for the photographer to blend in as much as possible. Furthermore, for religious or cultural ceremonies, there may be certain colors that are considered taboo. Make sure your photographers will be dressed appropriately for the occasion. Our typical wedding photography attire is black suit pants with a black polo or dress shirt. We dress completely in black because we want to go unnoticed by the clients and guests so we can capture the event as photojournalists.

11. How long after the event will the proofs, album, etc be ready?

Each wedding photography studio varies in the time it takes to produce and deliver your pictures. Studios that do not do any post production or color correction may try to entice you by saying your photos will be ready within the week, or even the next day.

However, most studios that develop and produce their images will take anywhere from 2 weeks to 6 months.

Rathkopf Photography has developed a consistent production schedule in order to deliver an amazing product in an exceptionally quick manner. This schedule can be seen below:

- 3-4 Weeks for Engagement, Family, Newborn, Anniversary Photography Sessions.

- 5-6 Weeks for Weddings and Receptions.

- 5 teaser images delivered within 1-2 weeks