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To the Bride and Groom:

If your wedding photography is planned for less than seven and a half hours, this planning form for portraiture comes with a strong warning:

We offer a blend of journalistic style photography and formal portraiture, but we find that brides and grooms often aren't aware that there is a major tradeoff between the two within limited time periods. The blending takes active consideration and some sacrifices to achieve. If you want a balanced blend, you need to limit the amount of time dedicated to the formal portraiture and plan the same amount of time for creative photojournalistic coverage. Lack of limiting formal portraiture or providing sufficient resources also for journalistic photography results in a collection of images weighted more toward formal portraiture than many brides' desire or expect. You probably need to make hard choices and limit what you want in the formal portraiture area and also actively plan for creative photojournalistic opportunities. You will probably be happier with the overall balance of your imagery in the end. Our photographers can provide guidance in this area.

We encourage brides to simply limit what they want in their formal portraiture and thus allow more resources to be used for photojournalistic coverage. If you want everything on this list in terms of formal portraiture and you want balanced journalistic coverage as well you need to schedule ample time for it all and you had better be of strong constitution - physically and mentally - because it is going to be a long day. We have had too many experiences where the bride and groom wanted everything on this list (sometimes more than once at different settings) which takes a minimum of an hour and a half, and wanted extensive journalistic coverage of their wedding as well - all within a strictly limited time period. This doesn't work out - period. In that event we would probably get what the client specifically asked for in the way of formal portraiture to the detriment of the creative journalistic style photography. Artistic photojournalistic photography takes time and resources. If you plan for an hour and a half of formal portraiture and you want extensive photojournalistic coverage, you had better in addition dedicate that same amount of time for photojournalistic coverage and actively make creative plans for it - at your home or at another location or whatever.

In planning, strictly limit the formal portraiture enough to balance things out within a limited time period (not more than an hour total for a six or seven hour wedding) and actively plan the creative opportunities and balanced time for journalistic style photography. You will be pleased with the results if you do. Please don't think balanced coverage will just happen magically from nowhere if you have not dedicated balanced time and resources to both.

It will not.

Important note on B&W - Color Image mix:

Please be sure and let the photographer know what your desires are on any B&W/Color image ratio. You may want all color, but the most common request is for us to select a number of the images and convert them to B&W – such as many of the getting ready images. We unfortunately sometimes assume the bride does not want any B&W if they do not mention it at the time of planning. That is not always a good assumption. The bride could be assuming we are going to take some B&W simply because we mention the possibility in our literature and she has seen the mix in most of our demo albums. Please bring it up if you want B&W images. By and large our clients are delighted in what we do with the mix, but we need some practical guidance and leeway. The photographer may look for and capture images of strong graphic quality with the intent of printing them as B&W images that he/she would not if they were shooting exclusively color.

With digital photography you can create B&W images either of two ways: as a B&W image capture in the camera or by converting a color image to B&W in post production. The majority of our B&W image capture/conversions to B&W are meant to stay that way exclusively: that image can no longer be printed as a color image unless it has been taken in color and then saved both ways.

As we are taking mostly digitally captured images this year, we may have the resources to add some creative content to a very select number of images to demonstrate to clients what we can do: some images will be saved and provided in both B&W and color versions and some images may be artistically manipulated to combine the two and/or to demonstrate other artistic effects.

Getting all you shots:

We will try and get all the shots you request, but most weddings don't go exactly the way they were planned and that goes for the photography also. An image or two you requested may be missed – sometimes the photographic opportunity that was expected to happen never does appear - but a lot you didn't expect you will receive and be delighted with. Overall, we try our best to do a quality job and we hold ourselves to high standards. Thank you for your time in reading this. Have a wonderful time at you wedding!

Portraiture Planning form

(Please list any special non-portraiture requests on a separate sheet)

Name of Wedding Party _____

Date of Wedding _____

before	after	subjects/groupings:	done
		bride alone full length (also turned for back of dress & train)	
		close-up of bride for bouquet and upper dress detail	
		super close-up of bride for face - top of bouquet	
		bride with parents (often individually before wedding)	
		bride with siblings if any	
		bride with bridesmaids	
		bride with maid of honor	
		bride with bridesmaids individually	
		bride with flower girl	
		bride other:	
		groom alone full length	
		close-up of groom/super close-up of groom	
		groom with parents (often individually before wedding)	
		groom with siblings	
		groom with his groomsmen /(ushers?)	
		groom with best man	
		groom with groomsmen individually	
		groom with ring bearer	
		groom other:	
		bride and groom as couple full length	
		close-up of bride and groom	
		super close-up of bride and groom	
		bride and groom with maid of honor and best man	
		bride and groom with child attendants	
		bride and groom with minister	
		bride and groom other:	

