



Photography Styles

When selecting a wedding photographer, it's helpful to understand the major different styles of photography. As you start visiting photography websites and meeting with vendors, it's important to know what styles you like and what you don't like. There are 3 major styles:

Traditional

Traditional photography is sometimes known as "formal" photography or "portraiture." This style refers to posed pictures, usually of the wedding party and family. These are the shots of the bridesmaids with their bouquets, the groom with his parents, the happy couple looking at each other, etc. This was the style of wedding photography most commonly used back in your mother and grandmother's era. Every wedding should have some traditional, posed shots as these will likely be framed and used for gifts.

Journalistic

Journalistic photography is also known as photojournalism. The goal of this style attempts to capture *moments rather than poses*, documenting the emotions and energy around the entire occasion such as the look in the groom's eyes when he sees the bride for the first time or dad's tears during the first dance. Because the photographer doesn't "direct" the participants or guests, the results are candid and spontaneous. The images convey genuine emotion and capture the story of your day as it naturally unfolds. This style has increased in popularity greatly over the past 10 years and it is much easier to find now. If you like this style, just make sure the photographer is comfortable also getting the formal photos as you will want at least some posed shots. Some journalistic photographers dislike the posed shots and may not be as good as directing the shots and getting them done efficiently.

Artistic

The last style is artistic photography. These photographers often use special lenses like a fish eye or soft focus lens, to get a certain look. They may also use colored lenses. These effects give the photos a very artsy effect. The problem is sometimes the "art" can overshadow the things in the photograph, like you and your new husband. Some people love this style, while others really prefer a more traditional approach.

Combination

Some photographers will be a combination of these styles. You should be able to tell from their websites and albums what style they prefer.