

Why you should hire a professional wedding photographer

Or

Why it is not always a good idea to have a family member take your wedding pictures.

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Many people nowadays are out of work with the economy being what it is. Everyone likes the idea of being able to save money, especially at a wedding. Photography is one of those costly things that some people think they can do without. We have a beach wedding package that includes the officiant and one hour of photography for \$300.

When you hire professional photographer you're hopefully hiring someone with a great deal of experience and the appropriate equipment. They should have redundant backup cameras, flash speed lights, and extra lenses for varying conditions. You will only have one chance to capture the emotions of this event.

Remember that you get what you pay for.

Sure many people have decent cameras as anyone can buy a good camera and oftentimes they can get good pictures. It is very tempting to take the chance to have a family member or friend shoot your wedding pictures. Imagine what would happen if a family members camera quit working in the middle of the wedding ceremony. What could your family member do?

One only gets one chance to capture the moment at such an event.

Remember you get what you pay for.

I have seen amateur photographers; family, friends and other people forget to charge their batteries all the while starting a photo shoot. I have seen the camera die while it was just starting to get the opening images of the event. While I was performing a wedding I once had a family member beg me to let them have some AA batteries so they could continue shooting pictures. I took pity on them and let them have the batteries they needed. I always carried excess supplies and equipment in the chance that I had just such a problem. Just because batteries are new in the box does not always mean they will work as everything is now made in China and that does not mean high quality. My best quality Nikkor lenses are made in Japan and my best Nikon Cameras are made in Japan and Thailand. My first Nikon Camera was a D50 that I used for beach wedding pictures and it was made in China. It worked for about 3 days and then quit working. Luckily the store exchanged it for a new one. I traded up to a better camera soon afterwards.

I have seen the amateurs forget to bring new memory cards and the old one in the camera is almost full even as the wedding has just barely started. I have seen camera and flash equipment quit working due to varying reasons with no backup in sight. I have had these things happen to me and I know better.

I once had a memory card fail, it was a major name brand, and I was able to recover most of the pictures with special file recovery software. I had two cameras around my neck, so had the memory card failure been catastrophic, it would not have been a total loss. But this was a special cause for alarm and a very sobering moment. I was prepared for this event and I ask you this question: Would you family member be ready for this to happen to them?

Suppose the pictures come out badly as they are blurred, too bright due to overexposure or too dark due to underexposure? Will you be angry at your family member for failure to capture the emotions of the wedding? Remember you get what you pay for and one only gets one chance to photograph the wedding.

I have been performing wedding ceremonies for a number of years and I know what to expect for the poses and positions of the bridal party and the officiant or clergy. When the bride walks down the aisle the photographer must already be in position to capture the smile on her face. We know what angles to be in for the ring exchange and all the other ancillary nuances that make for capturing all the emotions of the event. You only get one chance to capture the event photographically.

I have seen people spend thousands on flowers that are thrown away just hours after the marriage vows are exchanged and yet the same people gripe about the cost of the pictures and yet the pictures should endure. My photographers always get pictures of everyone at the wedding, including the children and couples. Family pictures make a nice gift for the bride and groom to be able to present and give to their families and friends. You can always find some other budget item to cut to be able to afford photography for at least the ceremony and formals. The formals are the bridal party pictures and immediate family shots and a professional photographer can knock this out in an hour.

Cut back and make the open bar a cash bar to save some money or spend less on flowers that get tossed in the trash just hours after the vows are exchanged. You get what you pay for in this world. You need someone with the experience and quality cameras to capture the emotions of the event. Let us be your photographer on your special day.