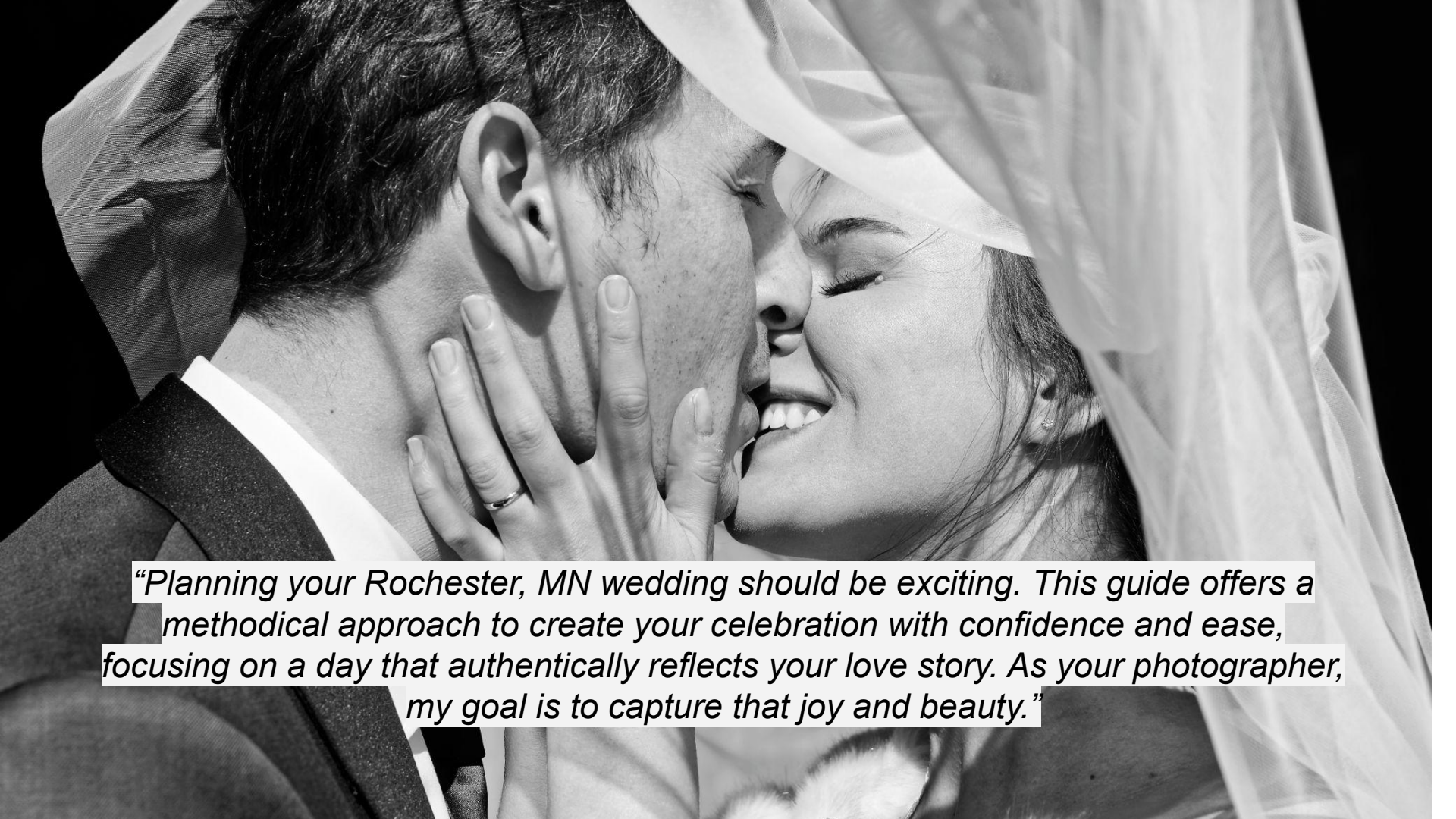


# The Wedding Guide Rochester, MN

By  
[French-Touch-Photography](#)





*"Planning your Rochester, MN wedding should be exciting. This guide offers a methodical approach to create your celebration with confidence and ease, focusing on a day that authentically reflects your love story. As your photographer, my goal is to capture that joy and beauty."*

# First Steps & Big Picture

**Budget & Priorities:** Your budget is your spending plan. Openly discuss what's most important (e.g., photography, venue).

- The average Rochester wedding (100 guests, 2025) is **\$20,000-\$35,000**.
- **Average Ranges (100 guests, 2025):**
  - Venue: \$2,500-\$8,000
  - Catering: \$30-\$70 per person
  - Photography: \$2,000-\$5,000
  - Flowers: \$1,500-\$3,500
  - Cake: \$350-\$800
  - DJ/Music: \$800-\$2,000
  - Attire: \$1,000-\$5,000
- Nail down 2-3 non-negotiables and research Rochester costs. Allocate your money to your values. Track spending.
- **Budget-Saving Tips:** Consider Friday/Sunday weddings or winter weddings (Jan-Mar) for discounts.

**Vision & Style:** Define your wedding's feel (e.g., Relaxed, Romantic, Modern). Create a mood board (Pinterest) with colors, textures, and light to communicate your vision. Ensure your style aligns with your venue for cohesive, stunning photos.



# Pre-Wedding Timeline

**12+ Months Before:** Set budget, priorities, guest count, draft guest list. Book venue & photographer/videographer. Reserve hotel blocks. Send save-the-dates (out-of-town guests).

**9–12 Months Before:** Select wedding party. Engagement session. Start dress shopping. Book caterer, officiant, band/DJ, rentals.

**6–9 Months Before:** Send save-the-dates (if not yet). Book florist, honeymoon, transportation, music/entertainment.

**3–6 Months Before:** Order invitations. Schedule dress fittings. Order cake. Book hair & make-up trials. Purchase rings. Plan rehearsal dinner. Apply for marriage license (within 6 months of wedding).

**1–3 Months Before:** Mail invitations. Track RSVPs. Finalize vendor details. Create seating chart. Break in shoes. Final outfit fittings. Photographer/videographer consultation.

**2–4 Weeks Before:** Final dress fitting. Confirm final guest count with caterer. Share day-of timeline with wedding party. Prepare vendor payments. Assemble emergency kit.

**1 Week Before:** Pack for honeymoon. Confirm all details with vendors. Final photographer meeting. Relax!



# The Legal Side

**Marriage License:** Apply online via Minnesota Official Marriage System (MOMS). Both must appear in person at Olmsted County Government Center (151 4th Street SE) to sign; book an appointment.

- **Needed:** Valid photo ID, Social Security numbers, full legal names, addresses, dates/places of birth, legal name after marriage for each. (Felony convictions may require a separate court process for name changes). Date last marriage ended (if applicable).
- **Fees:** \$115 standard, or \$40 with 12+ hours of premarital education (present signed, notarized educator's statement on letterhead).
- **Validity:** License valid for 6 months, usable anywhere in Minnesota. Both must be 18+.

**The Ceremony:** Performed by an authorized individual in MN (licensed/ordained minister 21+ with credentials filed, judge, certain court administrators). Two witnesses (16+) must sign the certificate.

**After Ceremony:** Officiant files license with Olmsted County Vital Records within 5 days. Order certified copies (approx. \$9 each) for name changes.



# Venues

- **Rustic Charm & Romantic Light:**
  - **Maywood Stone Barn:** Historic stone, sprawling grounds. Book far in advance.
  - **Pond View Barn (Pine Island):** Rustic romance, nature.
  - **Plummer House:** English Tudor, enchanting gardens for intimate events.
  - **The Hilltop House:** Restored 1928 manor, elegant suites, outdoor spaces, city views.
  - **The Floral Hall (Graham Park):** Historic limestone hall, two-story mezzanine, seats 300. Affordable.
- **Unique & Modern:**
  - **Rochester Art Center:** Sleek, modern, riverside location.
  - **The Castle (by Cameo Restaurant):** Unique, historic, transformed event space.
  - **J.Powers at the Hilton:** Modern, chic, terrace with city views.
- **Country Clubs & Lush Outdoors:**
  - **Rochester Golf & Country Club:** Classic charm, beautiful greens.
  - **Somerby Golf Club (Byron):** Elegant indoor/outdoor options.
- **Elegant Hotel Weddings:**
  - **The Kahler Grand Hotel:** Historic, grand ballrooms, Tower suites.
  - **The Marriott:** Downtown, modern, glass wall.



# Wedding Day Timeline

A good timeline is key for relaxed, joyful photos.

## Why Time Matters for Photography:

- **Golden Hour:** Soft light after sunrise/before sunset for ethereal portraits.
- **Relaxed Portraits:** Ample time allows for creativity and genuine smiles.
- **Detail Shots:** Capturing flowers, tablescapes, attire.
- **Candid Moments:** Unscripted moments unfold naturally when not rushed.

**Photographer's Tools:** I offer clients a custom [Timeline Builder](#) and [Sunlight Calculator](#) to plan for optimal lighting.

**Advice:** Don't overschedule. Allow buffer time.



# 10-hour Timeline

- 11am-12pm: Bride H&MU starts; detail shots (dress, rings, shoes, stationery).
- 12pm-1pm: Groom gets ready.
- 1pm-2pm: Bride H&MU ends; bride dresses; candid.
- 2pm-2:15pm: First Look.
- 2:15pm-3pm: Bridal party pictures.
- 3pm-3:30pm: Family pictures.
- 3:30pm-4:30pm: Couple's pictures at venue.
- 4:30pm-5pm: Hide before ceremony.
- 5pm-5:30pm: Ceremony.
- 5:30pm-6:30pm: Cocktail hour (couple enjoys; photographer gets candid).
- 6:30pm: Guests seated; Grand Entrance.
- 6:45pm: Dinner; Couple's welcome speech.
- 7:30pm-7:35pm: Cake cutting.
- 7:30pm-7:50pm: Toasts.
- 7:50pm-8pm: Dancefloor prep.
- 8pm-8:15pm: First Dances.
- 8:15pm-8:50pm: Open dancing.
- 8:50pm-9pm: Grand Exit (e.g., sparklers).

[\(more details here\)](#)



# Engagement Sessions

Get comfortable with the camera and create relaxed images.

I used un-posed prompt to make you laugh.

I provide guides on

- [Locations for photoshoot in Rochester](#)
- [Outfits](#)
- [Activity and ideas reflecting your personality.](#)



# Tips for a Smooth Day

- Assign a point person for questions.
- Assign someone for family photo lists.
- Preparation: Champagne with bridesmaids, whisky with groomsmen.
- Exchange heartfelt letters/gifts pre-ceremony.
- Consider a "first look" for private portraits and a "first look" at the reception room.
- "First look" with parents.
- Include pets if desired.
- Special moment for grandparents.
- Ceremony kiss: make it long, then steal another down the aisle.
- Surprise thank-you speech to spouse/parents during dinner.
- Stay hydrated (electrolytes).
- Take 5-10 quiet minutes for yourselves.



# Minnesota Weddings

- Always have weather backup plans.
- Check Mayo Clinic conference schedules (can affect hotel rates).
- Inform guests about downtown parking.
- For winter weddings: allow extra travel time, consider hand warmers.
- Be mindful of Canada geese near water features (e.g., Silver Lake).
- Consider local businesses for welcome bags/favors.
- Have a "day-of" emergency kit.



# Rochester MN Wedding Vendors

## Venues

[Mayowood Stone Barn](#)  
[The Kahler Grand Hotel](#)  
[Plummer House](#)  
[Rochester Art Center](#)  
[J.Powers at the Hilton](#)  
[Pond View Barn](#)  
[The Garten MarketPlatz](#)  
[The Four Daughters](#)  
[Villa Bellezza](#)  
[Blue Moon Ballroom](#)  
[Hilltop House](#)  
Restaurants  
[The Blue Duck](#)  
Tents  
[Majestic Tents](#)

## Photographers &

### Videographers

[French Touch Photography](#)  
[Penny McCoy](#)  
[Becca Dilley Photography](#)  
[Bradley Hanson](#)  
[Photography](#)  
[Hard Copy Film Co](#)  
[Bobby Redmond Digital](#)  
[The Peterson Brothers](#)

### Floral Artistry

[Flowers by Jerry](#)  
[Rennings Flowers](#)  
[Fox and Fern Floral](#)  
[Sargents Floral](#)  
[Hy-Vee Floral](#)  
[Carousel Floral Gifts & Garden](#)  
[Young Love Floral & Finds](#)  
[Arts and Flowers MN](#)

## Caterers

[Pinnacle Catering. Powers](#)  
[Canadian Honker Catering](#)  
[Catering By Design](#)  
[Victoria's Ristorante](#)  
[John Hardy's BBQ](#)  
[Smoak BBQ](#)  
[The Blue Duck Kitchen](#)  
[The Gifted Gourmet](#)  
[Key Catering Barbecue](#)  
[Charlie's Eatery & Pub](#)  
Food Trucks and Bar Trucks  
[Taco Lab](#)  
[Gladys Taco Jed](#)  
[Traveling Saloon Bar](#)  
[The Compadres](#)  
Cake Bakers  
[Sweet Assurance](#)  
[Short and Sweet Cake](#)  
[Nothing Bundt Cakes](#)

## [Hy-Vee Bakery](#)

[Darlin' Bakery & Cafe](#)  
[Frosted by CC](#)  
[Don Panchos Bakery](#)  
[Cakes & Bakes](#)  
[Creatively Kat's Gluten Free Treats](#)  
DJs  
[Ever After Entertainment](#)  
[Good Vibrations DJ's](#)  
Live Music  
[Loud Mouth Brass](#)  
[The Band Amateur](#)  
[Courtney Burton, Vocalist](#)  
[Sharon Planer](#)  
[Paul Berger](#)  
[The Ensemble \(Harpist & Oboe\)](#)  
[Amy Lindstrom](#)  
[The Hibs \(Irish music\)](#)

[Blue Water Kings Band](#)  
[The River Side Hitmen](#)  
[The Covers](#)  
[The Barn Boys](#)  
[Entertainment](#)  
Wedding Planners  
[Happily Ever Laughter](#)  
[Events](#)  
[Brianna Schwartz at Luna](#)  
[Soul Events](#)  
[Kastina & Co](#)  
[James Peterson at](#)  
[RSVPeterson](#)  
Wedding Officiants  
[James Risser, Wedding](#)  
[Officiant](#)  
[Kristine Stensland \(Guide](#)  
[your heart\)](#)  
[Rev. Dr. Frank Nelson](#)  
[Susan Lee Wright](#)  
[Kathy Diedrich](#)  
[Alpha Prpic](#)

Wedding Attire  
[Styled by Alicia Marie](#)  
[\(Stylist\)](#)  
[Mestad's Bridal and](#)  
[Formal Wear](#)  
[The White Rose Bridal](#)  
[Finery Bridal Chic](#)  
[Knight's Chamber](#)  
[Men's Wearhouse](#)  
Dress & Suit Alterations  
[Wendy Lou Sew](#)  
[Susanna Bordelon:](#)  
[Looking Sharp Alterations](#)  
[Trester Tailor](#)  
[TM Alterations](#)  
[Mary's Custom Sewing](#)  
Hair Stylists and Makeup  
Artists  
[Jamie Coppage](#)  
[Heather Trachsel](#)  
[Looks By Liz LLC](#)  
[Violetta Lenina \(Twin](#)  
[Cities\)](#)  
[Hair & Makeup by Kara](#)  
[Kloss](#)

[Katrina Moyer Studio](#)  
[A Berry Hair by Amber](#)  
[Berry](#)  
[Kristin Soyring - Makeup](#)  
[Artist](#)  
[Primped \(Twin Cities\)](#)  
[Lady Vamp Artistry \(Twin](#)  
[Cities\)](#)  
[Serenity Couture \(Salon\)](#)  
[UptownCurl \(Twin Cities\)](#)  
Transportation  
[Rochester City Lines](#)  
[Star Transportation](#)  
[Roch Party Bus](#)  
[Rochester Trolley & Tour](#)  
[Co.](#)  
Rentals  
[Majestic Events](#)  
[Collected & Co.](#)  
Miscellaneous  
[Custom Keepsake](#)  
[Drawings by Michelle](#)



