

Wedding Photographer Selection Guide

Questions to Ask & Planning Checklist

Brought to you by. [French-Touch-Photography.](#)

Booking Timeline

Start looking: 12-18 months before your wedding date

Minnesota peak season: May-October books up quickly

Don't wait: Limited options if you wait until 6 months before

Budget Guidelines (Minnesota)

Beginner photographers: \$2,000+

Experienced professionals: \$3,000-\$5,000+

Packages with engagement: \$4,000-\$6,000

Compare what's included, not just the final price!

Questions to Ask Yourself First

- ☐ Do you love their photography style?
.....
- ☐ Have you met the photographer? Do you feel comfortable with them?
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- ☐ Have you reviewed complete wedding galleries (not just highlights)?
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- ☐ Have you seen photos taken in dark venues similar to yours?
.....
- ☐ Are their online reviews authentic and recent?
.....
- ☐ How long have they been photographing weddings professionally?
.....

Red Flags to Avoid

- Poor photo quality (blurry, bad lighting, poor composition)
- Bad reviews or slow communication
- Won't show complete wedding galleries
- Less than 3 years of wedding photography experience

- No backup plans (equipment, photographer, insurance)

Contract & Payment Questions

- ☐ What happens if you have an emergency before our wedding?
.....
- ☐ What's the payment schedule? (deposit amount, final payment timing)
.....
- ☐ What are your cancellation/rescheduling policies?
.....
- ☐ Are there travel fees beyond a certain distance?
.....
- ☐ What happens if our wedding runs overtime?
.....
- ☐ Do you carry professional liability insurance?
.....

Equipment & Technical Questions

- ☐ Will you personally be photographing our wedding (not a partner)?
.....
- ☐ Do you have backup equipment if something breaks?
.....
- ☐ Do you work with multiple cameras simultaneously?
.....
- ☐ How do you handle dark venues? Do you use off-camera flash?
.....
- ☐ What's your photo backup strategy during and after the wedding?
.....
- ☐ Do you offer a second shooter option?
.....

Photo Delivery & Rights

- ☐ Do you outsource editing, or do you edit personally?
.....
- ☐ How many edited photos will we receive?
.....
- ☐ What's your delivery timeline?
.....
- ☐ How will photos be delivered? (online gallery, USB, etc.)
.....
- ☐ What rights do we have to print and share photos?

☐ Are all delivered photos fully edited?

☐ What's your social media posting policy?

Albums & Products

- ☐ Do you offer wedding albums? What types?
.....
- ☐ Who selects images and designs the album layout?
.....
- ☐ Can we request layout changes?
.....
- ☐ Do you offer albums for parents?
.....

Communication & Planning

- ☐ How responsive are you during the planning process?
.....
- ☐ Do you help create our wedding timeline?
.....
- ☐ Can you provide references from recent clients?
.....
- ☐ What's your weather contingency plan for outdoor weddings?
.....
- ☐ When do you typically arrive and leave?
.....
- ☐ Are you comfortable recreating specific shots we've seen?
.....

Engagement Session & Family Photos

- ☐ Is an engagement session included?
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- ☐ How many outfit changes are allowed?
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- ☐ Where can we shoot the engagement session?
.....
- ☐ How do you handle large family group coordination?
.....
- ☐ Do you provide a family photo shot list template?
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Photographer Comparison Chart

Criteria	Photographer 1	Photographer 2	Photographer 3
Name			
Total Price			
Hours of Coverage			
Engagement Session			
Number of Photos Delivered			
Delivery Timeline			
Album Included			
Years of Experience			
Personal Editing			
Timeline Planning Help			
Response Time			
Backup Equipment			

Notes & Final Thoughts