

Wedding Photography Frequently Asked Questions

Searching for a photographer can be a daunting task. To help make it easier for you, we have provided some of the more commonly asked questions and answers about our wedding photography services. If you don't find the information that you need here or elsewhere on our site, please contact the studio at goldleaf-vgp@tds.net. This page will change as we add more of your questions, so check back often for updates.

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- Q. Will there be more than one photographer shooting my wedding?
- Q. How soon before the ceremony will the photos begin?
- Q. How much time is required for the formal photographs?

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Q. Should I provide meals for the photographer(s) covering my wedding?
Q. How will my new spouse and I view our proofs?
Q. Are printed proofs available?
Q. What is a multi-image proof album?
Q. When can a proof album be ready?
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Q. Is framing available for my portraits?
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Q. If we decide we'd rather order prints from you, is that an option?
Q. What's the largest size print I can order?
Q. I have some ideas for poses. Can we give them a try?
Q. How can you make my portraits look different from everyone else's?

Q. Where is your studio?

A. It is located in the country on five rolling acres in beautiful Warren County, Ohio.

Q. Do you offer engagement photos?

A. Yes. A free engagement session is included when you book your wedding with me, so that we can get used to working together. We can do the session either at the studio (indoors or out) or on-location.

Q. Do I have to book my wedding with you to have engagement photos taken?

A. No. But if you book with me, there is no charge for your engagement sitting.

Q. How long will an engagement session last? How many engagement shots are included?

A. Engagement sessions last about an hour. Wardrobe changes and unlimited poses are included. Typically you will end up with 30-40 engagement proofs. I will supply a digital file for the newspaper.

Q. Do you have references from other weddings you've done?

A. Yes. Contact me and I will email you the information.

Q. How can I find out if my wedding date is available?

A. Simply call the studio at 513-877-2995, or contact me by email.

Q. How far ahead should I book my date?

A. Book your date as soon as possible. If your wedding will be during a popular time of year, such as the summer or holidays, consider booking as far as 12-18 months ahead. No matter what time of year your wedding is, it is in your best interest to book at least 10 months in advance. This will increase your chances of getting the date of your choice. I book weddings on a first-come basis.

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Q. How can I reserve my wedding date?

A. A non-refundable reservation fee of \$75.00 will hold your date for you. You will have much-needed peace of mind knowing that this date has been reserved only for you. It also allows my studio to let other brides know your date is already taken. This fee is applied to the wedding package cost.

Q. When is the balance of your fees due?

A. 50% of the balance is due at least four weeks before the wedding. The remaining 50% is due five days before the wedding. None of us will want to deal with money issues the day of your wedding.

Q. How do I pay you for fees and anything I order after the wedding?

A. I accept cash, checks and PayPal. PayPal allows you to pay by credit card, but you do not need an account with them to pay this way.

Q. I'm just not ready to reserve my date. Will you hold the date till I get back with you to confirm?

A. It is not fair to anyone to hold dates. The only way to guarantee your date is with a reservation fee.

Q. Will I get to meet you before I book my wedding?

A. Yes. It's very important to meet with you and your intended before you book. We must be able to work together, and all feel we are a good "fit." We'll know that after we meet. Call 513-877-2995 or email the studio to set up a free, no-obligation consultation. We can discuss all your questions and concerns before you book, and you can view samples of my work.

Q. How many times will we meet before my wedding?

A. I meet with my clients as many times as they wish. All consultations are included in the cost of your coverage.

Q. When can we meet to discuss my wedding?

A. Just call 513-877-2995 to set up an appointment. I can usually meet any weekday and most evenings, depending on my appointments. Sundays are available for your convenience. I am very flexible.

Q. Do you ever schedule more than one wedding per day?

A. Never. This is YOUR day. My complete focus is on only you for the entire day. My goal is your happiness, satisfaction and peace of mind.

Q. Will you travel outside of the local area for my wedding? Are you available for destination weddings?

A. I am available to travel outside the local area and out of the state for destination weddings. My passport is current, therefore I am also available to travel outside of the country. Since travel costs are based on your location, please contact the studio for a customized quote.

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Q. Does it make a difference if our wedding is indoors or outdoors?

A. No. Each has its own distinct ambience, which will be reflected in your photos.

Q. Will you check out the location before my wedding?

A. I'll do this whenever I can, unless I'm already familiar with the venue. The rehearsal is a perfect opportunity to check out the location of the ceremony. Any last-minute questions or concerns can be answered then. If it isn't possible to visit before the big day, I will arrive early enough to get accustomed to the location.

Q. What type of packages do you offer?

A. I offer one complete package that will fit your needs. It is described in detail in the Wedding Price List pdf document. If you have questions about the package, contact me so we can discuss.

Q. How much can I expect to pay for your services?

A. My complete photography package is priced at \$1625.00, and includes a DVD of your images with a copyright release. This allows you to have prints, albums, etc. made anywhere you wish.

Q. Do you offer albums?

A. Yes, I can offer you anything your heart desires. If you would like me to create a wedding album for you, we will schedule a meeting at the studio, where together we will select the photos that will go into your album. After we discuss your requests, I will find the album company that can give you exactly what you want. If your album requires layout design, it will be handled by myself. I am also a graphic artist with many years of layout experience. For your album(s), I only use the finest labs that cater to professional photographers.

Q. How long before my album will be ready?

A. Most are ready several weeks after you place your order, depending on the size, type, brand of album and time of year. Some can take 3 to 4 weeks longer. The quality is worth waiting for! Every effort will be made to get them to you in a timely manner.

Q. Do you offer other wedding design services?

A. Yes. my graphic design services also include custom wedding invitations, save-the-dates, wedding programs, reception menus, water bottle labels, and everything else associated with your wedding and engagement. I also offer my own unique, hand-lettered calligraphy style that you will not find anywhere else.

Q. How many hours of coverage will I need?

A. Your package includes 8 hours of coverage. This is adequate coverage for most events. Additional hours can be purchased if you need them. I don't charge extra if you go over a bit.

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Q. Why shouldn't I just use a bunch of disposable cameras at my wedding?

A. It's fine if you want to have a few disposable, single-use cameras sitting around for your guests to use. They can be lots of fun. But you definitely do not want to rely on them as your main source of photos. The biggest drawback is that this type of photo is often dark, blurry and badly composed. This is not how you will want to remember your special day. These cameras are simply no substitute for professional coverage.

Q. Why shouldn't I just have my cousin/friend take my pictures? He has a nice digital camera.

A. Is your cousin/friend a professional? Again, there is simply no substitute for professional photography. A professional knows all the poses/tips/secrets and has the experience to capture the best possible images of your day. Your photos will be the number-one way you remember your wedding. Trust them to a pro.

Q. What is your photography style?

A. Your portraits will consist of a combination of fine art photography and photojournalism. I will be as inconspicuous as possible when photographing your wedding. At times I will be required to give directions to get the necessary poses. But I always strive to make even the posed shots look natural and unique.

Q. Do you shoot film or digital?

A. I shoot strictly digital. The quality is fabulous and digital allows me to take unlimited photos of your event. Digital is a win-win for everyone.

Q. Will you shoot any black & white photos?

A. All of your photos will be shot in color, but any photo will be available as black & white. Some photos lend themselves more to monochrome (black and white or sepia), and I will make suggestions to you when you view your proofs. There is never an extra charge for black and white or sepia prints.

Q. Do you have backup equipment?

A. Yes. I bring two identical cameras, extra lenses and all the extra equipment to ensure that there are no surprises to your day.

Q. Why is your photography less expensive than other photographers?

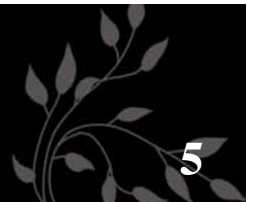
A. Simply put, because I have less overhead than most other studios. I can offer you professional, high-quality service for less than many other photographers and studios charge.

Q. Does a higher priced photographer = a better photographer?

A. Sometimes that's what the higher-priced photographers want you to think. In reality, costs + profit margin = the price you are charged. My costs and profit margin are less than most photographers, so I can charge less. My work is by no means inferior.

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Q. Will there be more than one photographer shooting my wedding?

A. That depends on the size of your wedding. If I feel that two photographers are needed to adequately cover your wedding, you will have two, but will only pay for one.

Q. How soon before the ceremony will the photos begin?

A. I like to start at least 1½ hours prior to the ceremony.

Q. How much time is required for the formal photographs?

A. It usually takes a minimum of ½ hour. I prefer to allow 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Q. How many pictures do you take? Am I charged per picture?

A. I will take an unlimited amount of photos that cover all aspects of your wedding day. That could be anywhere from a few hundred to 1000+. You are never charged according to the amount of photos I take, no matter what your coverage.

Q. Should I provide meals for the photographer(s) covering my wedding?

A. That would be nice but it is not a requirement. However, keep in mind that the photographer(s) will probably need to eat, depending on the hours they are there, and may need to leave to do so if a meal is not provided. Most guests do not like to be photographed eating, so that is a good time for the photographer to also take a break.

Q. How will my new spouse and I view our proofs?

A. Your proofs will be posted online. Your friends and family will also have the opportunity to look at them, and order prints online if they wish.

Q. Are printed proofs available?

A. Yes. Proofs are available either as a multi-image, spiral bound proof album, or as single 4x6 photos in a traditional photo album. Either of these options is an add-on item to your wedding package.

Q. What is a multi-image proof album?

A. This spiral-bound booklet is printed on photographic paper. Each page is one-sided, and contains either 4, 8, or 12 images per page. It can include all of your wedding images, or just your very favorites. This type of album is a wonderful tool to have on hand when you are choosing your album prints.

Q. When can a proof album be ready?

A. It is usually ready about 3-4 weeks after your wedding.

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Q. When we view our proofs online, will we be able to see all the photos you took, or just certain ones?

A. Before anyone sees your proofs, I will edit out any unacceptable photos (blurry, closed eyes, etc.). The rest of the images will be available online, even if they are very similar to one another. Only after you've seen them all will you be able to choose your very favorites for your albums.

Q. How long do I have to place an order after the wedding?

A. Your order should be placed with 4 weeks to avoid delays. First come, first served.

Q. Can I get a coffee-table-style book of my wedding?

A. Yes. There is a source for just about anything you can dream up. Just ask!

Q. Is framing available for my portraits?

A. Yes. I will be happy to discuss the many framing options that I offer.

Q. How long will the photos be online so that friends and family may order?

A. The photos will be kept online for a minimum of 3 months. Contact me if you need more time. There is a \$20.00 charge to re-post your images once they are removed.

Q. Can I go to someone else and have an album made?

A. Yes. Since you will have access to all your images, you will be able to go anywhere you choose to have an album made.

Q. If we decide we'd rather order prints from you, is that an option?

A. Yes, I'd be happy to take care of all the details for you.

Q. What's the largest size print I can order?

A. Our price list goes up to 20x30, but larger sizes are available upon request, up to 60 inches tall/wide.

Q. I have some ideas for poses. Can we give them a try?

A. Yes! I'd love to hear your ideas. I want you to feel comfortable, especially during the posed shots. Just let me know what you have in mind, either before or during the big day.

Q. How can you make my portraits look different from everyone else's?

A. You are unique and your portraits should be, too. A wide variety of special effects and creative options is available to make yours stand out from the crowd. You can view examples at the studio or online in my galleries. I am a graphic artist as well as a photographer, and I will make your portraits look sensational!

