



# WEDDING GUIDE

MARITIME RIVER PHOTOGRAPHY

EST. 2019

HELPING TO CURATE YOUR DAY



# STARTING YOUR OWN TRADITIONS

1. Getting Ready
2. First Look
3. Private Vows
4. Ceremony
5. Reception

YOUR wedding day is one of life's biggest milestones, so here's a helpful guide for you to have while I work by your side. Don't be shy to go unplugged, sneak out & take moments alone or take as much alone time as you need. The day is as unique as you make it.

From a photographer's point of view there are many aspects the client or wedding planner might not address that can help your day run smoother, and overall help you achieve the best images and flow possible.

This guide will help you note important parts throughout your day from start to finish, from getting ready, to your venue set up, late into the night and everything in between.

# GETTING READY

APPROX. 1.5-2 HOURS

1.1 It's recommended that your photographer shows to start the day towards the end of hair & makeup; as you finish up, this is ideal for capturing wedding details such as the dress hung up, keepsakes, flat lays, etc. Staging your finishing touches of hair & makeup after it's completed is more flattering and using family/friends to help complete the look is more memorable compared to those you don't know.

1.2 If the bride & groom are getting ready at separate locations, it's recommended the groomsmen are photographed after the bridesmaids but encouraged to be finished up 45 minutes ahead of schedule - trust me, they always run late. The groomsmen can be easily photographed getting ready by doing up their cuffs, lacing up the shoes, etc. at any location should time run over.

1.3 Take advantage of the morning for bridal party shots; capturing each side of the party at their getting ready location first, then following with the entire bridal party pre-ceremony depending on your first look. This saves time post ceremony when taking friends & family photos.

## CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING :

- If you don't have a bridal party, get ready together! This is so intimate and helps calm your nerves before the ceremony.
- Please clear your getting ready space as much as possible or get ready in a less appealing room. Leave the best space free of any clutter, less is more when it comes to photos.
- It's important to keep items away from a window that will give us natural light to use for portraits.
- Have all important details in one box to be at one location to photograph, along with: dresses, wedding bands/engagement ring, shoes, keepsakes, invitations, flowers, earrings, etc.

# FIRST LOOK

APROX. 30 MINUTES

- 2.1 If you're planning a 'first look' with your partner before the ceremony, aim to have it in a private space with a more intimate setting where no one can disturb. Taking 15 minutes completely to yourselves afterwards is so special & really sets the tone for the rest of your day.
- 2.2 A first look is best at least an hour prior to the ceremony - or - 2 hours if you plan on doing bridal party & some family shots prior to.
- 2.3 If you wish to add on a 'first look' with a family or friend, please ensure another 15 minutes is added to the timeline.

# PRIVATE VOWS

APROX. 15 MINUTES

- 3.1 After the first look is a great time to do personal vows. These are the words you can say to each other without any influence or pressure. Switch up the space for a different background.
- 3.2 Treating yourselves to a beautiful notebook or thick scripted paper to hold your vows that go with the aesthetic of your day, will photograph beautifully.

# CEREMONY

APROX . 45 MINUTES

3.1 Timing your ceremony about 1-1.5 hours before your reception starts is ideal depending on your desired photo requests before-hand. Having a later ceremony allows for catching up on missed time in the morning and not rushing the day along.

3.2 Take your time walking down the aisle; I will remind everyone when possible to take it slow. This helps photos come out better with time to smile at guests, the camera, be more poised, etc.

3.3 Stand close together at the alter; this looks more appealing in photos for hand holding, reactions, etc. Also for brides; stand on your favourite facing side for photos during the ceremony, break the tradition.

3.4 Ensure your JOP knows to move out of the way for your first kiss. I will remind them when possible before the ceremony starts. Have a few slower 'first kisses' allows for different angles and and retakes should anyone be in the way.

3.5 Friends & family shots are best done immediately after the ceremony when they come up to congratulate you. These make for great candid and posed photos with those closest to you. I will be right alongside during this time.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING :

- GO UNPLUGGED. Don't be shy to ask your JOP to announce for guests to put their phones down during the ceremony. Your friends and familys phones do not need to be in photos; allow everyone to be truly in the moment with you.

- It's a great option to have your JOP stand off to the side for the ceremony, this allows for a more intimate feeling in the photos.

- Ask your JOP to dress accordingly to your wedding colours or a solid neutral colour. This helps avoid clash in photos.

- I strongly encourage having your ceremony later in the afternoon if outdoors. Harsh daylight does not photograph best and casts unwanted shadows on your bone structure. If possible, ensure your setup has you both facing away from the sun; think of 'keeping the sun on your back.'

# RECEPTION

APROX . 3-4 HOURS

4.1 A cocktail hour starting after the ceremony and before the reception is a great 'intermission' for your guests to mingle with each other and get those desired candids. This also allows us to go off for photos while keeping guests entertained.

4.2 Take a breather before you enter the reception, you'll need it after all the friends & family photos & mingling. Taking a few minutes completely alone to enjoy your first moments as husband & wife is a great way to reset, don't forget this day is YOURS.

4.3 During the reception, please block off 30-40 minutes for you both to go get shots during golden hour. I suggest 45 minutes before the sun will be completely set. These are arguably the most special photos of the day, don't fret sneaking out of the reception for a bit. Typically when you finish your meal is great as guests are still being served. If it rains, add 30-45 mins post ceremony for us to go off and add in this portion of portraits, unless theres a desirable inside area for unique flash photos.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING :

- Speeches can be fun during cocktail hour when you come back from photos. Often speeches can run too late into the night and guests get restless.
- Lawn games, a photobooth set-up, etc. is always a guest favorite. This helps them stick around for the afterparty.
- A 'sweet-heart' table for just you two photographs much better than a long table with all bridal party members. You can decorate it much easier & see all your friends reactions.
- Getting a cheap little dress for those real party shots! It helps switch up the vibe for a new set of photos and you don't risk spilling drinks on your expensive dress.