



PHOTO: AMANDA MAE GECEWICZ

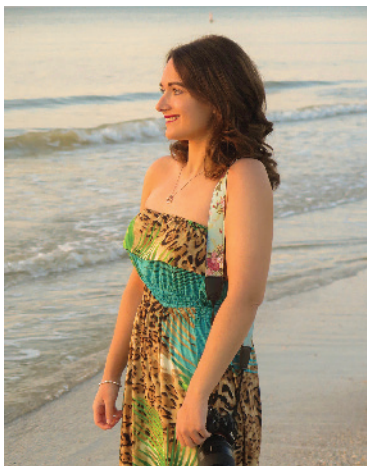
Picture Perfect

PHOTOGRAPHERS SHARE THEIR EXPERT WEDDING DAY TIPS

PLANNING FOR YOUR BIG DAY can seem overwhelming. When should I start my make-up? What if I can't find Aunt Agnes for family photos? When should the flowers be dropped off? Which photos should we take before the wedding and which ones should be taken after?

You may not know this, but you have an ally at your disposal—your wedding photographer. Sure, wedding photographers are experts at orchestrating fabulous photography, but they can also help with a timeline of the day's details and offer advice. Bounce your ideas off them. They've done numerous weddings and are happy to help. We asked local photographers to share some behind-the-scenes wisdom to make your day run more smoothly.

Tamara Tabel is a freelance writer and marketer who collaborates with Quintessential Barrington and Barrington's White House. Many of these beautiful portraits were taken at Barrington's White House, a nonprofit community and cultural center that is available for private rental for Weddings, Rehearsal Dinners, Welcome Receptions and Showers, as well as Corporate Meetings and Retreats, Bereavements, and Family Celebrations. Visit www.BarringtonsWhiteHouse.com.



Images By **AMANDA MAE GECEWICZ**
Photographer and Videographer
www.amandagecewicz.com

I love people. I love film. And I love love. So naturally, becoming a wedding videographer and photographer was the next step and I'm so grateful I ended up on this amazing path. I can barely sleep the night before a shoot because I'm too busy thinking about all the excitement that lay ahead. I think that's a good sign, right?

Set Your Master Schedule with All the Vendors Be sure to go over the schedule with each vendor ahead of time so everybody is on the same page. Typically, the photographer leads the way, but it's important that couples make time with the videographer and DJ, as well. For example, I will work closely with your DJ so I capture every special moment on video—whether it's your father's speech or the bride and groom's first dance—so you can enjoy the full experience for years to come.

Use "Candid" Shots and Video to Take the Pressure Off Many brides and grooms are camera-shy. Extra nervousness and pressure can set in when the couple is posed. My approach is to be a "fly on the wall" and to try to "capture you as you are." Just talk to one another or have a conversation with the photographer. You'll forget you're posing, and the shot will look natural.

Lock in Both Your Photographer and Videographer Up Front If you decide you want still photography and videography, discuss budgeting and scheduling with both sources well before the wedding. A great way to "test run" the wedding day is to plan your engagement and wedding photos with the same vendor. It'll help you loosen up a bit get to know the photographer's style. And you can try out your make-up or elements of your hair style. Do you like the look? Or should you make adjustments?







Images By **TAMARA JAROS**
 Photographer
www.tjarosphotography.com

I'm a 20-something girl with big dreams. I specialize in wedding photography and portraits for couples in love and growing families. It's a groom catching a glimpse of his future wife walking down the aisle or the precious seconds when a newborn baby smiles at hearing his mom's voice—it's all these special moments that make me love what I do every day.

Use the Same Photographer for Your Engagement and Wedding Photos It's so vital to work with your photographer before the big day. Engagement photos help photographers connect with clients and for couples to really get a feel for what photography on the day of their wedding will feel like. By the wedding day, my clients and I have inside jokes and a great comfort level.

Planning Is the Key to Fantastic Family Portraits Work with your family to formulate a portrait list well ahead of time. Designate someone to help with "crowd management". The ideal person would know most of the people on both sides of the family and can call out the names of people needed for certain pictures. Many times, someone from the bridal party fits the bill!

Gather Meaningful Items for a Memento Photo Are there heirlooms or wedding items that have special significance to you? The necklace your mother wore on her wedding day. Your grandmother's hankies. Maybe a photo of someone you miss. Place all these items in a bag prior to your wedding day. Your photographer can stage the shot while you are getting ready without needing to bother you.

Enjoy Your Day! Breathe, smile, and have fun. "The most important thing," says Tamara, "is you're there together to celebrate your marriage and you're surrounded by people who love you."





Images By [KERRI CARLQUIST](http://www.kerricarlstquistphotography.com), Photographer
www.kerricarlstquistphotography.com

I'm a Chicago-based traveling photographer for the belly-laughs and moments in between. You'll find me capturing the big moments, but I love turning those in-between moments into moments to remember. My approach to photography is simple: to tell your story, one that is so deeply real and authentic to you. When I'm not shooting and editing, you'll most likely find me with a morning cup of coffee in hand, spending time with my Golden Retriever pup, or chasing the sunset.

Let Your Photographer in on Who You Are Brides don't realize how invested their photographer is in the process and the couple as people. We go to extreme lengths to get to know you as a couple before the day—what is most important to you, what makes your relationship, and what makes your story true.

Schedule Your Hair and Make-Up Based on Your "Finish" Time The key is not when to start, but what time you need to be ready. What time are your pre-wedding photos? When does the ceremony start? Your make-up professionals can then recommend how much time you'll need to budget, for the bride or the entire bridal party.

Think of Light When Planning Your Preparation Space In choosing where to get ready, choose a space with lots of light. Your photographer can capture the bridal party in matching robes toasting with champagne glasses. Or catch that tender moment with the bride's mom helping with the dress or the groom's father adjusting his son's bowtie.

Know What Time the Sun Sets for "Golden Hour" Portraits Lighting is such an important element of fabulous photos. Plan to sneak away for a portrait at this most beautiful time of day with your forever person. 