

EST.2017
LEM PHOTOGRAPHY
L.L.C.

WEDDING



GUIDE

AUTHENTIC *ART* FOR EVERYONE



hey there

As your photographer, My hope is that we come out of our experience together as new friends! I tell your story by documenting those grand moments, along with the more quiet and intimate pieces of your wedding day. I want to capture you as your true self – all the epic stories, laughs, and special memories that you will fondly look back on.

My goal as your wedding photographer is to create art that authentically represents your wedding story and you as a couple.

I have been capturing love stories for 9 years now and with this experience comes knowledge! This guide was created to share just a little bit of the tips and tricks I have learned over the years to make your wedding journey a little easier!

Mary Szalkowski

WHAT TO EXPECT *my style*

WHAT TO EXPECT

My style is a perfect mix of emotive candid and Artistic posed or prompted photos. Don't feel like you have to have had modeling experience to get the gorgeous wedding photos of your dreams. I am here to guide you when you need it and also to catch the moments you may miss in the busyness of a wedding day!

Connecting with the wedding and the people involved on a personal level is hugely important in creating important images that will be part of your family legacy. We bring a fun and carefree feeling to every wedding captured, but with confidence of experienced professionals.



Before You Book

The first step is to review my packages offered to see what package works best for your budget and timeline.

The next step is to settle on your date and venue. I don't accept bookings until these two pieces are in place. Once you have these two ultra important decisions made, shoot me an email or social media message and I'll let you know if I'm available on your chosen date!

Once you reach out, I will set up a phone consultation with you to discuss the details of your wedding and our photo or content creation services.



WEDDING *photography*

LEARN HOW TO START YOUR DAY RIGHT.
I GIVE YOU TIPS BELOW!

The most important wedding photos are the ones that help the couple remember the important moments and people from their wedding day. Instead of trying to nail everything on a huge shot list, focus on what's important when it comes to your wedding and when it comes to your particular needs as a couple.

Partnering in marriage is a great milestone in a person's life. These are special moments and you want to preserve these memories in your life. Wedding photographers are the ones who can help make your memories last forever.

Our relationship affects your photos. Not only will you remember the person who made your photos as you look at them, but you're letting us into a really intimate time of your lives, and that's some vulnerable space! If we truly click, like you would honestly go out for a beverage with me, your photos are going to show that.

You'll feel more comfortable, and we'll be able to collaborate together to make authentic goodness. Your guests will feel it, too. If your wedding photographer feels like part of the inner circle, your loved ones will trust me, too. And that means honest, authentic photos of your day.

You know how the BEST photos happen? It's when a couple says, "We totally trust you! We are up for anything!" When you choose an experienced wedding photographer whose style you love and you trust them to make it happen, your photographs will be exactly what you want.







WEDDING TIPS

photography

I know exactly what you are looking for from your wedding day. An incredible celebration, that is memorable and of course, stress-free with amazing wedding photos that will last the test of time and allow you to relive said incredible memories.

Is it possible to have a fusion of amazing photography and a relaxed, fun day without feeling like you are in a photo shoot as a bride or groom? You bet it is.

BONUS TIP:

Avoid glossy lipstick and consider foundation or powder that will reduce the chance of having a shiny face. Please note mineral makeup causes unflattering effects with flash due to elements that reflect light in them. Glittery and shimmering powder is also a bad choice for the entire bridal party.

CREATE A BREATHABLE TIMELINE FOR THE WEDDING DAY

I am so happy to help you create a photography timeline for your wedding day. 2 weeks before your wedding I will reach out to request a general timeline for the day. (general timeline page is in the questionnaire in this guide) From that timeline I will create a photography timeline so you can see when and where all of the photos will be taken throughout the day and can share that information with the loved ones and other vendors.

It's a good idea to allow a little extra time between transitions or location changes from the ceremony to the reception. This leaves time for equipment movement and set up as well as space if things are running a little behind. This is what I mean by "Breathable".



CREATE A LIST OF FAMILY MEMBERS

2 weeks before your wedding I will request a family formal list (in this guide). This is a list of about 10 combinations of immediate family that you would like "formal" photos with right after the ceremony, including their names and relations. For family formal photos we estimate 2-3 minutes for each combination. So 10 combinations mean 20-30 minutes of formal photo time.

Let all close family members know that you want them to stay at the ceremony site for family portraits. Sometimes family members (yes, even close ones like grandparents) forget or don't realize they need to stay for the family portraits. It takes time to gather lost family members and is much easier when they all know prior to the wedding day.



GATHER ITEMS FOR DETAIL SHOTS

The rings, bouquets, wedding invitations, jewelry, boutonnieres, shoes, perfume and cufflinks are all gorgeous details that shouldn't be forgotten! It's helpful for your wedding photographer to rely on a wedding party member or other helper to organize these items, so make sure to keep them close!

Don't limit yourself to this list, though! If you have any items that are meaningful to your relationship (such as love letters, keepsakes/tokens, souvenirs, borrowed items, etc..) those make wonderful additions to your detail photos. You can also think outside the box!

Don't forget to have your dress hanging on a beautiful hanger for those epic dress hanging photos at the beginning of the day.





THE FIRST LOOK *moment*

I absolutely love this modern twist on the traditional wedding that gives you and your fiancé the opportunity to see each other for the first time in a more intimate setting. You could choose a more scenic location, or just have a first talk or handhold around the corner/behind a door so you don't see each other.



A first look doesn't have to happen right before you walk down the aisle, many couples choose to do a first look a few hours before the ceremony. A first look gives you more time to spend with your significant other during the calmer part of the wedding day before you are sharing your time with your loved ones and guests.

Seeing each other earlier in the day opens up the possibility of getting some group/family/wedding party photos out the way prior to the ceremony, which means that you don't have to spend as much time away from your guests and your party later on in the day. Reception guests love not having to wait as long for dinner to be served too!

A LA CARTE ITEMS



extra hours of photo or video coverage

Most weddings can be captured within 6-10 hours. However, Some weddings require a little extra time needed for photo or Content creation coverage (Weddings with Multiple locations, early morning start times, or unexpected delays during the reception) In this event Ala Carte hours are an extra \$500/per hour .

Film Photography

While digital photography remains a staple for most wedding photographers, requests for film have been on the rise. I first learned photography by taking film photos and would love to capture some highlights of your day on film in addition to capturing every moment in digital form. The film photography add on includes 20 Film prints from your wedding day (also delivered digitally) and is an addition cost of \$250. If you would like more film photos taken, you can add on more rolls of film for \$50/roll.

Drone Photography services

We are now offering Drone Photography as an Ala Carte add on. From overhead shots of the ceremony & reception venues, to pulled back views of golden hour couple portraits, this method definitely can bring more gravitas to your wedding gallery. It gives such a grand and different perspective of an event or moment. Adding Drone photography does mean that there is set apart specific time for the lisenced drone pilate to capture these views. When choosing this add on you will need to set apart 30 min from your wedding day for the drone couple portraits The best timing for thisi is during the reception when guests are still eating. This add on is \$\$250/ half hour.

ENGAGEMENT

Session advice

*WEAR SOMETHING
YOU CANNOT WAIT
TO WEAR!*

This is by far one of the most important tips I can give you. Choosing outfits that make you feel like a million bucks is key. If you purchase something new, take it out for a test run. You also want to think about how it'll photograph during your session. Move around in the outfit, see if it puckers in any ways you don't like. See if it lays nicely for sitting photos as well as standing photos.

Think about where these photos will be seen. If you are planning on using these photos for your wedding save the dates, invites, or at your ceremony and reception it would be great to incorporate your wedding colors into your outfits for cohesiveness.

Choose outfits that feel like an elevated version of your typical style. Add a little pop of a color, pattern, or texture that makes the outfit special.

Make sure to coordinate your outfits together, but don't necessarily match exactly. When choosing outfits find one item of clothing or an accessory that completely fits the vibe you are going for, then draw , colors from it to find the rest of the outfit.

Consider your location and the weather when choosing your outfits. The more comfortable you are in these elements the more natural your photos will turn out.



TAKE YOUR ENGAGEMENT PHOTOS IN A PLACE THAT YOU LOVE

I encourage couples to go to places they love. This could be the place where you first met, a cafe or brewery, or perhaps in your own home. Your story is unique, and your photos should reflect that. This is the perfect opportunity to visit a place that you have always wanted to go on a date at as well. I have a location guide that I will send you to help you feel inspired by where past clients have taken their photos.



SCHEDULE THE SESSION AROUND THE SUN

You may be familiar with the term "golden hour" aka the beautiful time of day just before the sun sets. This is when you want to shoot if you're looking for that warm light in your photos. Once your date is chosen for your engagement photos I will Plan ahead to find out when sunset is ensuring that we have plenty of time to shoot before the light is gone.

The early afternoon may sound like a good time for photos schedule-wise, but keep in mind that the light is much harsher at this time because the sun is directly overhead which casts dark shadows on faces. Early morning light can also be magical, so if you're a morning person, consider scheduling your shoot for an hour after sunrise.

A full-page photograph of a wedding couple in a field. The bride is wearing a white dress and holding a bouquet, and the groom is in a dark suit. They are standing in tall grass with trees in the background. A large, semi-transparent white rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing a quote in a serif font. The entire image is framed by a thin white border.

*"NOT ONLY IS
SHE FREAKING
TALENTED.
BUT SHE IS SO
DOWN TO
EARTH. SWEET.
AND KIND.*

Sanantha Arnold

KIND WORDS



1:03 PM (0 minutes ago)

"Mary is amazing to work with!! Quick feedback, responds to all questions. Barely noticed she was there (which we wanted). We loved our engagement session and wedding day with her. We had a long engagement and booked her in 2020 - she was responsive to texts and emails always throughout the entire 2 years! Gave advice on everything including timeline, colors, hair and even makeup! She truly goes above and BEYOND quick turnaround time for photos as well. Our preview for wedding day was ready at 12:15 as we were leaving the reception. Made the end of our night super special!! I cannot recommend her enough. We will forever use her as our photographer through all the stages of our love story & family planning."

Rachel & Gabe

"LEM photography Was phenomenal!!!! Super accommodating, professional, and personable. Brought my vision to life!"

Brittany & Brett

"Our photographer, Mary, was perfect. From our engagement photos to our wedding photos, she absolutely captured our day perfect. Not only is freaking talented, but she is so down to earth, sweet, and kind. If you are looking for a wedding photographer, don't think twice, book her. You won't regret it!"

Samantha & James

"We did our engagement pictures on Monday and our photographer got our full album back to us on Tuesday. Mary is amazing! She was so fun to work with and all of the pictures came out beautifully! The gallery we got sent is huge!"

Lindsey & David





WEDDING QUESTIONNAIRE

Exciting times!

It's only a couple weeks away until you marry your best friend!! In order to give you both the most ideal experience possible, all of my wedding clients must complete a final wedding photography questionnaire.

I encourage you to be detailed, creative, and thorough - I want to ensure that everything about your wedding is captured exactly as you have dreamed.



QUESTIONNAIRE

part 1

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

Partner #1's Full Name:

.....

Getting Ready Location:

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Day of Phone:

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Partner #2's Full Name:

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Getting Ready Location:

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Day of Phone:

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Photography Coverage Time (Start to Finish):

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Ceremony Time:

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Ceremony Site and Address:

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Reception Time:

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Reception Site and Address:

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WEDDING PARTY

Partner #1's Wedding party people:

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Partner #2's Wedding Party people:

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Partner #1's Parents:

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Partner #2's Parents:

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QUESTIONNAIRE

part 2

YOUR WEDDING TEAM

Hair:

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Makeup:

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Gown designer/retailer:

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Bridesmaids Attire:

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Groom + Groomsmen Attire:

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Florist:

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Planner/Day of Coordinator:

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DJ/Band:

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Caterer:

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Jewelry:

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Invitations:

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Videographer:

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Transportation:

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Wedding Cake:

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Other professionals to note:

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QUESTIONNAIRE

part 3

YOUR STORY

Please share any significant details, cultural traditions, religious events, or family heirlooms that you would like me pay careful attention to.

If there are particular traditions that require prior knowledge, feel free to link to educational material or provide the contact information of your officiant.

Do you want to have a first look before the ceremony?

If you have content creation, are there any reels or trends you know you want to film on your wedding day?

part 4

THE TIMELINE

Please provide me with a basic schedule of events for your big day! Once I have this basic schedule I will make a detailed photo/video timeline and will send it back to you for final approval. The most important details for me to have to create my schedule are the ceremony start time, grand entrance time, and dinner start time.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

If your wedding planner or day of coordinator is the best person to contact regarding the timeline, let me know and I will be happy to discuss this with them directly.

FAMILY PORTRAITS LIST

Please provide a detailed list with each portrait you would like taken for your family formals taken right after your ceremony. Another option if you would like more time at cocktail hour or if you would like your family portraits to be taken in an outdoor more artistic location is to take these photos before the ceremony like you would with the bridal Party (you can only do this you are having a first look with your partner. Please take the number of portraits into account when scheduling out time. Below is my foundational formals list. Please customize it to meet the needs of your family and include the first name of each family member alongside their relation to you. For example: Mom (Sarah), Step-Dad (Tom) Please make sure all family listed in these photos knows to stay in the ceremony area for these photos or to arrive early depending on the timeline you've decided on.

PARTNER #1 IMMEDIATE FAMILY

Couple with Parents, Siblings, & Grandparents

Couple with Parents & Siblings

Couple with Parents

Couple with Siblings

With Mom

With Dad

PARTNER #2 IMMEDIATE FAMILY

Couple with Parents, Siblings, & Grandparents

Couple with Parents & Siblings

Couple with Parents

Couple with Siblings

With Mom

With Dad

COMBINED

Couple + Both siblings

Couple + Both Sets of Parents

[illegible][illegible][illegible]



Do you bring a second photographer?

YES! All of my packages (except elopements or courthouse weddings) come with a second photographer! The second photographer covers the groom getting ready and provides alternate angles with focus on candid moments throughout the day. The second photographer also is a backup for the main photographer in case of emergency.

How soon will we receive our photos?

Your photos will be complete within 90 days from your wedding date. You will however receive a large next day preview to hold you over until your full gallery is complete!



Are you willing to travel?

Definitely! Travel fees are applied if I'm traveling over 1 1/2 hours to a location. Destinations that exceed two hours driving time each way may require overnight accommodations. Please inquire with your specific location for details of pricing.

Do you offer payment plans and how do you take payment?

YES! I break all of my packages into 4 equal payments spread equally until the week before your wedding. The first payment is your retainer and is due in order to place your wedding date in my calendar. Your payment plan with due dates will be laid out in your contract.

I take payments through invoices sent out through my website. You are able to pay these invoices with either paypal or credit card.



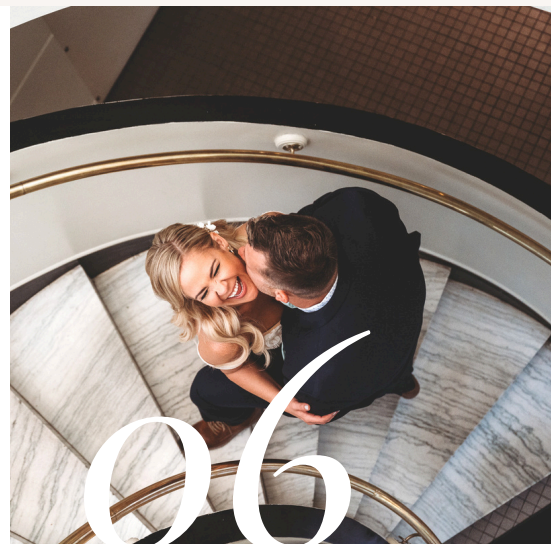


Should I consider content creation?

Yes! If you already have a professional photographer/videographer and love candid moments then a Content Creator is for you! Content creation provides quick photos and videos of your day captured in a candid but artistic way. These moments are much less staged and capture the in between as well as any fun social media trends you know you want captured on your day.

Do you have backup equipment?

Yes! My team brings backup cameras, batteries, sd cards etc to every wedding. You can also feel secure in knowing that I buy new SD cards for every wedding I photograph, so there is never a formatting issue and I will have your RAW photos forever.



What is your cancellation and reschedule policy?

If the Client reschedules the wedding and the Photographer has the new date available, all money paid up until that point shall be transferred to the new date and the parties will adjust the contract accordingly to indicate the new Wedding Date. If the Photographer is unavailable on the new date, it will be treated as a cancellation, discussed next. If the Client cancels the wedding or Photographer's services 120 days or more before the wedding, then any amounts paid will be refunded to Client, except for the deposit, which is nonrefundable. If the Client cancels the wedding or Photographer's services 119 days or less prior to the date of the wedding, the deposit plus any other amounts paid are nonrefundable, as Photographer is unlikely to book a wedding so close to the date.

How Do I Book A Date?

Once we have our phone consultation, I receive your signed contract, and receive your deposit/retainer/1st payment you will officially be in my calendar for your selected wedding date.





CONTACT

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Thank you!

I hope that this guide has been helpful to you as you are planning your perfect wedding day!

Choosing your wedding photographer or content creator is such an important step in planning your wedding and I thank you for considering and/or choosing me to capture all the moments of your amazing day! I cannot wait to create authentic Art for you !

Mary Szalkowski