



Dear prospective client,

We include this document for those that are still very much in the planning stages of their wedding.

It serves as a guideline only and some of the points could be raised with venue owners as leverage for better pricing.

On the outset we should point out that we have been subjected to all these challenges previously and have had to “go with the flow”. But it is also a fact that the overall quality of the end products is adversely affected in some way. So please consider these factors in your planning:

Ideal times for photographs are early morning or late afternoon. This does not apply if the location has a lot of shaded areas or the weather is overcast or cloudy. Contrary to early beliefs photos taken in the mid-day sun are to be avoided. Allow sufficient time for photography and dissuade your guests and family from taking photos. This is not because they are seen as competitors but because it takes longer to move on from one scene / composition to the next. Consider preparing a list of desired family photos beforehand. Always order the shoot so that older folks are photographed first and try not to include such folks if there are stairs to be negotiated. Try to allow 90 minutes for the photos and longer if you want to relocate to another area. In some cases re-locating can be strategically used to avoid lingering guests from accompanying you on your couple shoot.

If you haven't yet selected your venue, here are some valuable tips as seen from the viewpoint of video or photographer professionals:

Consider the effects of poor lighting facilities in the rooms. Most of us can get around this if there are white ceilings or walls to bounce flash off them but if this does not exist it poses additional challenges for these professionals.

Consider the effects of ambient noises. Close by highways, race tracks and airports can contribute significantly to unwanted sound effects on the video.

Watch for wooden floors as these can induce undesirable vibrations evident in the video footage and also contribute to unnecessary noises such as when children run across them.

Sound out the “echo factor” especially in the chapel and also in the venue as these cannot be removed from the sound track.

Watch out for table decorations that extend more than 600 mm vertically off the tables. The videographer will continuously need to move positions to avoid people's faces being situated behind the artefacts.

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