Choosing a Wedding Photographer

By Jenna Caputo

Photo by Keira Lemonis Photography
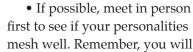
Choosing your vendors for your wedding can sometimes be a stressful decision. It's an important day and you want to be sure you find the right match. And finding the right photographer seems even more important since you will have those pictures forever. Here are a few quick considerations to help you choose the right photographer for your special day:

• Do you connect with the photographer's portfolio emotionally? When you look at their work, can you see yourself in those same pictures? Do you lean more toward a formal and traditional style, or are you more on the playful and/or non-traditional side? Choose someone who naturally captures that imagery. Local wedding photographer, Keira Lemonis, states, "A photographer will do their best work when their client's vision aligns with their own vision for capturing the day." So be sure to make this your top consideration when choosing your photographer!

• Keep your budget in mind. Many photographers will at least list their starting package rates right on their website.

• If possible, meet in person first to see if your personalities mesh well. Remember, you will be spending your entire wedding day with this person. Are they professional? On top of taking beautiful photos, can you connect with them on a personal level? Will they be able to interact with your family and friends in a way that will put everyone at ease?

• Not all photographers offer the same options. Be sure they offer what you want. Heirloom album, wall art, prints, digital negatives – what are you looking to have in hand after the day is over?

• While everyone needs to start somewhere, and new photographers can be great, using an experienced wedding photographer will likely allow for a better sense of timing and understanding of how the wedding day flows. An experienced wedding photographer has had the time to perfect where they should be standing and when for each event of the day. If an experienced photographer is out of the budget, be sure to thoroughly discuss your expectations with the novice photographer well in advance. ■