

Wedding

WELCOME GUIDE



welcome



Welcome to my wedding photography guide! If you are reading this, that means that you're probably window shopping to pick who will capture the best day of your life. & I was lucky enough to make it onto your list of potential photographers. How lucky am I! I appreciate you taking the time out of your busy wedding planning to read through this.

I promise that this guide will be worth your while and will hopefully guide you towards choosing me to be your wedding photographer.

This guide is curated to help you understand everything that comes with possibly booking me as your wedding photographer.

Your wedding will be one of the biggest days of your entire life. Wedding documentation is one of the most important parts of the entire day. I take my responsibility extremely seriously. I am ready to capture your best day ever!



Working with Mari

If I could describe myself while photographing weddings in three words, they would be "Reliable, Creative, & Fun". My goal is to capture your day so that you can remember it forever. When you hire me as a photographer, you hire a personal assistant. You hire an organizational planner. You hire a creative director. You get so much more than just photos with me.

People usually don't realize that your photographer will be following you for the entire day. So, I am apart of the major parts of planning a wedding. I keep everyone on time, on track, and also having fun. Because at the end of the day- it's your wedding day. The greatest day of your life. It's worth celebrating!





engagement sessions

tips for your session



With the purchase of Wedding Package 02, you also receive an engagement session. Consider this a preview to the big day. These are usually the photos that people use on their save the date invitations to send to family and friends. I will guide you and your partner with posing, that will allow for you to feel used to the way that I work. Trust me, you won't be disappointed. Most couples come to my photoshoots and one of the first things out of their mouths are, "We have no idea how to pose, so you need to help us." Don't worry. I LOVE posing people to make them look their best.

getting ready





This is one of my favorite parts of the entire day. Looking at these photos after the hustle and bustle of your wedding day is over, I promise you will get those nervous butterflies all over again. I keep things extremely candid during this part of the day. I tell everyone, "Just pretend that I am not even here." This is the time when you will really get to break out of your shell with me. I will jam out to your favorite songs with you. I will grab you food or drinks. I will help you put on your wedding dress. Hey, I will even take a shot of Jack Daniels with you.







detail shots

Please please please have all of your detail items together in a box in an easy to find place for me when I arrive. In this box you should include everything you want photographed in detail shots.

This can include:

- Shoes
- Jewelry
- Fragrances
- Invites & Save the Dates
- Garter
- Rings & Box
- Letters or Gifts
- Styling Blooms

You can also include anything else that is special to you and the day. Some people include family keepsakes or specific styling tools.

family portraits

Depending on your own family constellation, there are any number of configurations we can photograph the wedding party in. Some with everyone in them, some with each of your immediate then extended families, and some variations of smaller and larger groups. One thing that's absolutely necessary for this part of the day is that everyone knows it's happening, everyone's on board, and there's someone (Wedding planner? Sibling? Best friend?) who knows who everyone is and can help me herd everyone in the right direction at the right time. Before the wedding, you can help me out by sending me a bulletpoint list of who you want in each photo. Just to organize! I want to make sure that you get everything that you want for your big day. An ideal time to do this is immediately after the ceremony, but before the couple portraits. Once the reception starts, it's hard to track everyone down (and likely we might capture hors d'orderves debris between someone's teeth).





getting ready

10:00am

In all reality, you don't need me there for all of you getting ready. Plan to be 3/4 of the way finished when I arrive.

first look

1:00pm

Not everyone does a first look, but as soon as you're finished getting ready, we can get these shots and take couple portraits.

ceremony

2:30pm

This is the most important part of the entire day, in my opinion. Just let me know if I have permission to walk around to photograph.

family portraits

3:30pm

Typically, these are done right after the ceremony once all of the family has arrived. Make sure to inform all participating guests of the details.

bridal party

4:15pm

These can be done before the ceremony or after. Just make sure your bridal party knows when and where

reception

5:30pm

After entrances, try and do "the important" stuff while everyone's attention is still focused. Transition into cake cutting and first dances before dinner.

SAMPLE TIMELINE

tips for planning your

Timeline

consider lighting - if you are having an outdoor ceremony, plan for the best lighting. reach out if you need help with this!

stage your send off - in all reality, not everyone will stay for the very end of the party. if you want all of your guests included (and want to get all of your pictures in an 8 hour window) consider staging your send off at an earlier time

family pictures - make sure all involved parties know when and where these are taking place. for larger families, plan for 30-45 minutes

consider doing a first look - if you want to knock out all of your bridal party pictures & couple portraits before the ceremony, a first look is a great way to do this

sunset portraits - i always recommend sneaking away at sunset for a quick 15 minutes to take a couple more pictures of just the two of you

take some time - allow some time in between events so you have a second to breathe, kiss your partner, and drink some water. I always make sure to keep a 30 minute window of time before the ceremony without any photos to give you a chance to tame those flyaways or eat a quick bite!



collections

Invest in your story and memories

During our consultation or email exchanges, we can go over what exactly your wedding day might look like and what you will need photography wise. Every couple is different in their needs and that is why I have structured my packages the way they are.

Investing in wedding photography means investing in pictures that you'll maybe one day show your future children. Pictures that you can share with your friends and family. Pictures that you and your soon to be spouse can look back on every anniversary.

When you think about your wedding, what do you think of? Whatever your vibe or vision might be, you will want to remember it. This is why I take a documentary approach with my work. I want you to remember every detail and moment you experienced on your wedding day.

I want you to look at your final gallery and relive the raw emotion you felt during your first kiss, your first dance, or the cheering from your closest friends and family.

All of my packages include:

A digital online gallery

Hand picked edits

30 day turn around

48 hour sneak peek

Consultation (however it may work best for you)

Planning Assistance

Gaining a new best friend ;)



Pack 01

- 8 hours of wedding day coverage
- One photographer (me!)
- Online high definition gallery delivery no more than 30 days after the event
- Print release
- Consultation (however it works best for you. In person, zoom, email, phone call, whatever you feel comfortable with!)

\$2200

Pack 02

- 10 hours of wedding day coverage
- Two photographers (the second photographer is from my list of trusted second shooters)
- Online high definition gallery delivery no more than 30 days after the event
- Print release
- Consultation (however it works best for you. In person, zoom, email, phone call, whatever you feel comfortable with!)
- Engagement photo session prior to the wedding date

\$3200



your final gallery

There is scarcely a better feeling than opening up your wedding gallery for the first time. Absolute butterflies- even for me as I deliver it! Once you have this gallery link, it is all yours. Post about your favorite day, print all of your favorite photos and make a photo book- they are all yours. I deliver my galleries through a website called Pixieset. After 3 months, I delete this gallery from my website in order to create space on the website for new client galleries. So make sure that you save them to 2-3 different backup external drives. Think about it as the backup to the backup to the backup. Because once they are off my Pixieset link, they are off of my Pixieset link for good.



FAQ

I am super busy and don't think that I can do an in person consult. Is via email okay?

Listen, if anyone understands what it's like to be busy, it's me. I have shot multiple weddings where the first day that I met them in person, was the day of the wedding! You might be thinking- but how can you trust me if we don't meet in person? That's what the down payment is for. The down payment proves to me that you are a legitimate client. I also love following my future clients on social media before the wedding to get a taste of their lives. Email consultations are more than okay.

Do you do contracts? Down payments?

I absolutely do contracts and down payments. The down payments are a percentage of the entire cost of the wedding photography fee. This is a non refundable down payment that protects my scheduling and protects me as a photographer. I also always do contracts for all of my wedding photoshoots. This contract protects me from anything and everything. Think of it like a receipt of purchase. It is an online contract. Super easy to use!

I only want Pack 01 for my wedding, but I still want an engagement session. Can I book a seperate session?

Yes! Yes! Yes! I would love to do that with you. You can absolutely still book a separate engagement session.

My wedding is not in KC, will you travel?

I would absolutely love to travel for your wedding! I do require that travel costs such as potential gas prices for driving or plane tickets will be covered. Everything else- I can take care of! I would love to travel!



hit me up

(816) 527-7021

maricharlsonphotography@gmail.com

see more work

www.maricharlson.com

let's get social

IG: @maricharlsonphoto

FB: @maricharlsonphotography

THANK YOU

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for taking the time to go through this welcome guide and learn a little bit more about me. Thank you for reaching out to chat about your wedding!

I am so grateful for all of my clients. Every single person I have ever shot with has a very special place in my heart. It truly is a dream to be a photographer. I seriously could not imagine doing anything else.

Even if you go another direction for your wedding photography, I greatly appreciate you taking the time to view this guide.

Best of luck with planning!
XOXO, Mari Charlson