

Suggested Photography Timeline

The amount of time we suggest you set aside for photos depends on the time of day, wedding party size, family size, and the location of the “formal photo” time, first look, and reception plans – always keep in mind travel time between any location. Here are some good estimates:

Preparation Shots – Duration: 1 – 2 hours

Ideally we would have 1hr with the bride and 1hr with the groom – but this can overlap with two photographers. This can involve getting the dress on, family or cultural traditions, makeup and hair touchup, individual and group shots, as well as fun time with the bridal party before the wedding ceremony.

Couples Session and/or First Look– Duration: 1 hour to 2 hours

We highly suggest doing this before the ceremony in conjunction with a “first look.” That way you can enjoy the rest of your day without having to worry about taking too much time out for photos. Also this is when the makeup and hair are fresh. We’ll set up a first look moment so it’ll still be a surprise when you see each other. Be sure to give us at least a full hour so we can capture the amazing shots you see in our portfolio.

Ceremony – Duration: 5 minutes to 1.5 hour

The ceremony portion can last as long as you and your officiant want it to.

Family Formals – Duration: 0.5 hour to 1 hour

I will have a list of pictures that you want with your family/friends right after the ceremony. Typically this is done at the altar but we can do it any location you’d like. Also, have one person from each side of the family that is really organized (and loud) to move people in and out of photos.

Bridal Party & Couples Formals – Duration: 0.5 hour to 1.5 hours

This is where we take the bridal party out for some fun shots. An option is to schedule this during the cocktail hour or between the end of the ceremony and the start of the reception. This is also nice to handle before the ceremony so that you can rest and enjoy your day afterwards.

Reception – Duration: 1 hour to 6 hours

The amount of time the photographer is at your reception is dependent on the activities planned – cocktail hour, dinner and dancing, father/daughter & mother/son dances, traditional “wedding party” events, bouquet and garter toss, and cake cutting, as well as the formal exit, sparklers, rice toss, etc. We are happy to work with you to minimize the amount of time a photographer is at your reception (thus reducing the cost to you).

Don’t forget to include TRAVEL TIME if any part of your wedding is in more than one place!

Photographers never truly resting during the wedding day: whether we’re backing up images, setting up for the second venue, traveling to the next location, taking venue or detail shots like the rings or decorations, or making up for lost time because of inevitable wedding day delays. In many cases, we use that “downtime” to take you and your significant other out for a photo session or more candid portraits.

Contact Monumental Arts for your Free Consultation!

By Appointment Only • Monumental Arts Studio & Offices Located in Ft Washington Maryland
www.monumentalarts.com • 1-800-687-9350 (call) • 201-781-6863 (text) • monumentalarts@outlook.com