

Consultations

Weddings: Before your Face-to-Face Consultation – Preparation and Planning

Even if it's a short-notice wedding (which happen more than you would expect), *please take the time to communicate!* Visit any photographer's website immediately to see their work, then call them to talk, or email. If you also can, meet with your photographer ahead of time – *consultations are ALWAYS FREE with Monumental Arts.*

Setting Expectations

The important thing is to communicate! Discuss your needs and find out if this is a photographer with whom you would feel comfortable. Your wedding day can be one of the most emotional days of your life, and your wedding photographer will see you at your most vulnerable. When communicating with your photographer, be sure to express your desires and expectations – while we as photographers can read faces, I can't read minds, and if I don't know what you expect, then I can't exceed those expectations!



Talk to Multiple Photographers

I highly encourage you to meet with several photographers – you will see widely varying prices, options, and skill levels, and it is important to compare what each one offers! The worst thing to find is a cheap photographer with little experience and no

Bottom line: If you aren't comfortable while having a cup of coffee with a prospective photographer, keep looking!



Ready to book your complementary consultation?

I want to meet you for a complementary face to face consultation to show you the high quality and value of working with a professional photographer. I offer in-home or studio consultations with convenient online appointments at www.monumental-arts.genbook.com -> weddings/engagements, or choose a phone consultation if you are so busy you cannot devote an hour to this very important decision.

Guide to Comparing Wedding Photographers

Wedding photography is no simple subject, and interviewing potential wedding photographers can be a daunting task – it is essential you take the time to compare wedding photographers, their skills, their style, and what they offer to every Client. Regardless if you choose Monumental Arts or decide on another studio, I have created a list to help you compare and find the right photographer for *your* wedding day. It offers realistic questions to ask photographers, to give you a sense of their experience and how they can exceed your expectations.

My one piece of advice to you – *find the best photographer you can afford, because there is only one shot to capture your wedding day.*

	Monumental Arts	Company A	Company B	Company C
Phone Number	1-800-687-9350			
Website	www.monumentalarts.com			
Wedding Experience	425+ Weddings			
Professional Experience	12 years full time – since 2006			
Recent Reviews	See My Reviews			
Studio and Office	Located in Ft Washington, MD			
Online wedding resources & information?	See My Wedding Resources Page			
Consultations Available?	Face to Face, Phone, or Skype			
Hourly Rate	Petite Weddings 1-4hrs Start at \$499			
Inclusive Packages	Deluxe Weddings Start at \$1899 Premium Weddings Start at \$3999			
How do you accept payment	Credit Card, Cash, Check, PayPal, Money Order – plus payment plans to spread out			
Financing Available?	I offer up to \$35K in wedding financing through Promise Financial			
Do you photograph more than one wedding per day?	Only one – yours			
Photography Style	Photojournalist and Traditional, always with an artistic touch			
Venue Experience?	It depends			
Insurance – General	\$2,000,000			

Business, equipment & liability	*most venues require proof*			
Backup Cameras & Lighting Equipment	7 Canon cameras, full lens set for each			
Contract	Yes			
Retainer	\$499			
Cancellation Fee	Loss of Retainer			
What if my wedding lasts longer than contracted?	**We ALWAYS ask first** Overage Fee starts at \$400			
Second Photographer and/or Assistant	Recommend for 100+ guest weddings or weddings long than 6hrs			
Total Staff Photographers	3			
Travel Charges	Only if over 75 miles			
Photographer's Attire	Depends on wedding formality & season			
How long until I see my photos?	Your Viewing & Ordering Session is 6 weeks after your wedding			
Retouched Images (edited/Photo Shop)?	Every image you see is retouched			
Albums	Absolutely – choice of many styles and prices			
Prints/Enlargements	Absolutely – choice of many sizes			
Online Download/Ordering	Private Secure Online Gallery			
How long do you keep the images?	They are “forever archived” in a minimum of 2 locations			
We don't want our images online for personal or privacy reasons – is that a problem?	The choice is yours – I offer privacy & confidentiality			

Notes:

Make sure you also read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and use the other Wedding Guides to help you best plan for your wedding photography!

10 Questions Every Professional Wedding Photographer Can Answer

Below are 10 questions Monumental Arts' thinks you should ask every photographer you speak with. The most important thing is the trust a bride has that her photographer will be there for her and deliver on promises – if they cannot answer these to your satisfaction, then look elsewhere.

“Will we have a signed contract that lists our price, package, agreed services, and other details for our wedding?”

This is essential. Without a contract and a written agreement, you have no comeback if you don't receive the service or products you were expecting. If you were considering hiring a wedding photographer and find that they will not give you a written & signed contract then walk away and find someone else.

“Do you have insurance?”

Check that your chosen photographer has Public Liability & Professional Indemnity insurance. You need to be sure that they can cover the costs if something goes terribly wrong. Also, some wedding venues will actually insist on this and proof may be required.

“What happens in the event of illness or accident?”

Can the photographer offer an adequate replacement if he or she falls ill or breaks a leg before the wedding day? You can simply ask the question and you will know how confident you feel when you get an answer. If they cannot give you a clear and concise answer in response to a very serious question, then you might want to rethink. An unsure reply, full of “um..s” and “err..s” might mean that they have not really given thought to how they would manage the situation - in which case, what else might they have not given thought to?!

“Do you work with an assistant or second shooter and is there a charge for this?”

An assistant can help the photographer by freeing them up with equipment and helping with various little jobs - fetching water, holding second cameras etc. Whilst a second shooter can offer an alternative point of view (literally) it is certainly not essential. Some photographers will bring a second shooter, some will charge for this and some will happily work alone with just an assistant carrying bags. If you would specifically like a second photographer to be present, make sure you find out how much this might cost.

“Do you offer an engagement shoot before the wedding?”

For some couples, an engagement session is essential; for other couples, it's just an extra “thing” they have to worry about and plan for. Although an engagement session gives the photographer and the couple a great opportunity to work together in a relaxed manner with no pressure, there should be no pressure to have an engagement session or any other photography session before your wedding.

“How long will you stay on the day of the wedding and will there be a charge if the event lasts longer than planned?”

This is something that needs discussion well before your wedding day. The last thing you want is for your cake cutting and first dance timing to have overrun by half an hour and for your photographer to tell you that they have finished for the day ... or that if you want them to stay it will cost you an extra \$250. On the other hand, some photographers will not limit the number of hours they stay at all, so this will not be an issue. Whatever the options & possibilities, make sure you understand *exactly* what is and what is not included well in advance – and that it’s written in the contract!

“Are you going to be the photographer who attends our wedding?”

Some studios have several photographers who they hire out for weddings. Make sure that the photographer you are meeting and getting to know is the same one who will shoot your wedding. If you have taken the time to go and visit the studio to meet, there’s little point having a complete stranger turn up on your wedding day.

“How do you feel about other guests taking photographs at the same time?”

This can be quite a touchy subject. Occasionally, as photographers, we get a guest or family member who is an avid picture taker and who will, seemingly, do their best to get in the way and have a go at being a pro for the day. It’s important to remember that you have paid a lot of money to have a competent professional do the job correctly. While we certainly don’t mind guests standing beside us for any group shots we are setting up, it’s only respectful that the guest photographer stands aside when politely asked (or even better, beforehand) so the professional can get on with their job, unhindered. You would hate for us to miss a shot because Uncle John stepped in front of us at a key moment... and he didn’t get the shot either!

“After the wedding, how long will it be before we are able to see the photographs?”

All photographers will manage their workflow differently, and it could be argued that there is no right or wrong way - everybody will do what they think is right. What is important is that your expectations are set, that you are given a realistic idea of how long you will have to wait before you see your proofs after the wedding day and that this promise is met.

“Do you carry backup equipment in case of failure?”


This is one of the main differences between a professional and an amateur. Any photographer worth their salt will always have backup equipment in case their main tools break. We carry two cameras with us (and are able to shoot with just one), and one spare in the boot of the car just in case both camera bodies fail. You’d have to be pretty unlucky for this to occur, but we have heard of this happening, and luckily the photographer was able to use her spare. The same goes for flashguns, batteries, memory cards etc.

Weddings: Once you Decide to Book

Congratulations – you’re ready to book a wedding and/or your engagement – pick the day, the time, and the location, plus what style and products you want!

Online Booking

I offer convenient online booking at www.monumental-arts.genbook.com – this online booking platform lets you look at my availability and choose the best date and time for your session. It also gives you an opportunity to see the options I offer for different types of sessions, as well as reviews from recent Clients!



Monumental Arts

5.0 ★★★★★ 58 Verified Customer Reviews | ♥ 3
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Photographers

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Service & Staff **Date & Time** **Your Details** **Confirm** **Finished** **Business Information**

Categories	Select a service	Hours
Portrait Collections	Wedding Used to reserve your wedding date. A \$499 Retainer is required and is equal to the first hour of photography. You must provide the location/address of where the service will take place. Weddings begin at \$499 for the first hour.	Mon 9:30am - 8:00pm Tue 8:00am - 8:00pm Wed 8:00am - 8:00pm Thu 9:00am - 6:00pm Fri 9:00am - 11:30pm Sat 5:00am - 11:30pm Sun 8:00am - 7:00pm
Personal Portraits	Custom Engagement Session (\$125.00) Used to reserve a custom engagement session Mini Session - \$125 Petite Session - \$225 Standard Session - \$350 Collections start at \$600 The \$125 scheduling fee will be applied to your total cost.	Phone (800) 687-9350
Business Headshots	Phone Consultation Used to schedule a phone consultation for any service. Please double-check you provide a valid email and phone number	Website Company website
Acting & Modeling	Home/Office Consultation Used to reserve a Consultation at my your home or office. You must provide the location/address of where we are meeting.	Recent reviews 1 of 5 ◀ ▶
Boudoir & Fine Art	Studio Consultation Used to reserve a Consultation at my Studio and office in Fort Washington, MD	★★★★★ Professional Photographer. Great Experience. Jun 27, 2017 I've received a consultation from Monumental Arts, so that I may get a feel for both the photographer, K. Michael, and the environment of the studio. It was a great experience. All additional questions that I had were answered; and good amount of options were provided, until we were able to narrow down what was the best option for me. You can tell Mr. Michael is a professional, committed to providing the best possible service. I am
Events		
Corporate		
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Of course, I will be in communications with you “early and often” via email or phone, if we have the time!