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What Your Photographer Wants

Choosing the best photographer you can afford is the first step to getting great shots, but after that, we wondered, what else can you do? Turns out, plenty. We put the question to four top photographers. Here's how they say you can help.



"BOND WITH ME"

"If you or your groom are at all nervous in front of a camera, the best solution is to book an engagement shoot with your photographer," says Kristen Jensen, in Bethel. "It's like a test run for the wedding—it will help you get to know your photographer's personality and shooting style so that on the wedding day there is already an established level of familiarity and comfort, as well as

increased confidence in your photographer's abilities, which always nets more relaxed, natural-looking photos."



"GET OUT OF THE HOUSE"

"Although it may seem like getting ready at your own home or your parents' place would be a more relaxing and sentimental experience, it usually just feels cramped and cluttered—a stressful environment that can take away from the photos," says Justin Marantz, in New Haven. "I encourage brides to get ready at a light, airy salon instead—it tends to provide a better backdrop for photos, and ultimately leaves

the bride feeling more relaxed. But, if you have to prep at home, at the very least tidy up the room, and part the window curtains to let the natural light in."



"BE SPECIFIC"

"Provide a list of special guests—especially those who are not close relatives or wedding-party members—as well as the important moments you want documented, beyond the obvious ones like the father-daughter dance or the cake cutting," says Thomas Hurlbut, in Ashford. "Every wedding is unique, so certain events won't be on my 'must shoot' checklist—like the time a bride

surprised her groom with a custom motorcycle during the reception. When I know about these moments in advance, I can plan ahead and be at the right place at the right time."



"WRANGLE YOUR VIPS"

"To help make formal photos go as smoothly as possible, I usually suggest that couples make an announcement at the rehearsal dinner about

where and when everyone needs to be the next day, so it's fresh in guests' minds," says Steve DePino, in Guilford. "Then, they should give a checklist of all the formal shots they want to their photographer, and make a copy for a friend or relative who knows everyone—that person can help the photographer round everyone up and get them 'on set' for the next photo."

Your Wedding, Live

Your best friend is nine months pregnant, your elderly grandparents can't travel across the country... There are lots of reasons guests may not be able to attend your wedding. However, they can be there virtually. Tolland-based "I Do" Stream can provide absent guests with live, streaming video of your ceremony.

As founder Phil Ly explains, "We create a personalized, secure website for private viewing and provide the couple with an Evite to send out to guests that includes the link, a user ID and password, and instructions on how to view the ceremo-


ny." Plus, viewers can chat with one another, so it becomes totally interactive. (Viewers can also chat live with the company's tech support team.)

It works like this: Your videographer coordinates with "I Do" Stream (the company has already partnered with 20 Connecticut videographers, and over 200 videographers nationwide) to set everything up. If your videographer doesn't want to get involved, the company can send you a camcorder, a tripod, and a laptop pre-installed with "one-click broadcast" software for self-setup.

Cost: Packages from \$349 for up to 50 viewer connections.

860-681-5414, idostream.com



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