

**FAQs**

**Choosing your**

**Wedding Photographer**



Dilip Hirani BA Hons

[dilip@dkh-photography.com](mailto:dilip@dkh-photography.com)

<http://www.dkh-photography.com>

**0800 135 7851 – 020 8312 9966 – 07886 287 453**

## About - Choosing your Wedding Photographer

Every time a firm closes or makes redundancies more 'Professional Photographers' appear on the scene, this is an unfortunate consequence of there currently being no regulation in this industry, leading to the kinds of Horror Stories that hit the national press.

### **So how do you know who's genuine and who's a chancer?**

To help guide you, I've prepared a whole list of FAQs for you to ask EVERY Wedding Photographer to ensure you get the coverage & service you want & deserve.

If your Photographer cannot answer positively & immediately to these then don't just walk away...

### **RUN AWAY !!!**

This first section shows the FAQs with my guidance. At the end of the document is a list of the questions themselves for you to print & take with you to your Wedding Photographer meetings

### **Are you a Professionally Qualified Wedding Photographer?**

Would you employ any old chap with a spanner or would you prefer a Qualified / Registered Plumber? Qualifications are a sign that your Photographer has pride in their work, sufficiently enough to allow themselves to be judged by their peers. It's about advancing your own ability by measuring yourself against others. It's about proving your worth as a Photographer. If they don't value their own work sufficiently to gain qualifications, why should you value them either!!!

### **Can I see a copy of your current Insurance Certificate?**

This is not insurance to cover for a dropped camera, so much as to cover YOU in the event of something going horribly wrong and your Wedding needing a reshoot in some part. It's also about protecting You and Your Guests in the event of an accident involving the Photographer's equipment.

### **Do we get a Contract clearly stating what's what?**

Any Wedding Photographer operating without a solid, clear Wedding Contract is an IDIOT !!! A contract protects both you & your Photographer by clearly stating what's included in the service you are paying for. It needs to be long enough to cover the essentials but not so long you are put off reading it. Clarity is vital for both parties.

### **What happens if you are ill or injured for our Wedding?**

Wedding Photography tends not to attract those prone to illness, but it does happen so your Photographer MUST have a plan for this eventuality. I have attended various meetings around the country and can call on at least 10 of those in such an eventuality; additionally I am party to an active Private Forum of over 230 Professional Photographers, so coverage is pretty much a certainty.

### **Can we see several full sets of real Wedding photos?**

Most of my couples (all who visit me) view at least one high quality Sample Album. At any one time I have up to 4 all from the last 12 months you are welcome to view. Additionally, I can offer passwords of at least two weddings online too if you'd like to view a few whole Weddings prior to meeting with me.

### **Are the photos on your website from actual Weddings?**

Every Wedding Photo on my website is from a Wedding I have covered myself as the main (usually sole) Wedding Photographer.

### **How many photos will I see from my Wedding?**

A typical full-day's Wedding may result in hundreds of images being taken. These are then edited to remove anything unflattering, test shots, repeated shots (taken to hopefully avoid blinking) and anything technically at fault. The result is usually 350-500 images showing the full story of your fabulous Wedding, and all will be presented as 'Print Ready'. This means they are final images ready to go into your Album or simply to create a fab printed photo. Many of those images, at my discretion, will also have effects applied to WOW you and show the image in what I feel is its best light; and several will be in Black & White too.

### **Can I buy them on a CD/DVD to print myself?**

**No, because you get them anyway!**

I have no idea why so many Wedding Photographers say 'No' to this simple and obvious request. Every package I offer includes high resolution JPGs for you to print and share and a CD with low resolution files optimised for usage online.

### **Do you shoot RAW or JPEG?**

This is a technical question but the accepted rule is that Professional Wedding Photographers should shoot in RAW format. There are a host of reasons for this but as the files created need further processing by specialised (and expensive) software on a computer it gives you an indication of professionalism.

### **Can we have a Pre-Wedding/Engagement Shoot?**

Yes of course. A Pre-Wedding shoot is a great way to get to know your Photographer and for them to get to see how you are in front of a lens. It is not common to do these shoots at your Wedding Venue as many think this takes the edge off their Wedding photos.

The images from your Pre-Wedding shoot can then also be used for a Signature Portrait – where one photo is mounted onto a large mount which your Guests can sign at your Wedding; I find many couples also like to have bespoke Photo Guest books made from images from their Pre-Wedding shoot; alternatively, it's quite common to give smaller framed photos to your parents as gifts at your Wedding too.

### **Do you do a Pre-Wedding visit of our Venue(s) with us?**

Yes, this is vital to making your Wedding day run as smoothly as possible. It's a planning tool where we can walk around your Venue(s) discuss timings and plan an actual route for your Photography on the day; including discussing a plan for lousy weather. The main point of this planning is to give you more confidence on how your day will play out, and that when you are whisked away for some private shooting time it won't take too long that you miss your party, but it'll take long enough to give you a wide variety of images.

### **How long should we allow for photos after our Wedding ceremony?**

Being a Wedding Photographer means loving to shoot photos, so the longer the better for the Photographer; however, taking you away from your Wedding, Guests & the Party for too long is not really a good idea however great the resulting photos may be. A balance has to be struck, but if we can have at least 20-30 minutes alone with you as the newly married couple then that's great. Even better is that often, there is 'spare' time not only immediately after the Group photos but again, after the Wedding Breakfast, as your venue turns around the room for your evening bash. This added opportunity can be useful for some more adventurous photography, or even where the earlier stint had to be curtailed perhaps due to the weather.

## How many Group photos do you take?

Group photos are usually seen as a necessary evil by everyone concerned. None of your Guests want to be in them, but your mum especially wants them. The key to successful Group shots is keeping their number to as few as possible, and ideally anything less than 8. Even moving quickly, which is rare, your Guests won't like being herded around too much so a rough rule of thumb is to allow 2 minutes per Group shot. Hence a big list could easily mean there's no time for photos of you as the happy couple!!! It's also important to have your Best man &/or Ushers involved as they know people and can prepare one Group while another is being shot; this significantly speeds up the process.

## Can our Guests take their own photos?

Absolutely!!! It's their day too. Again some Photographers won't allow it, but so long as we (as your paid Wedding Photographer) have your attention when we need it, your guests are welcome to step in and snap away merrily The only time we do not allow another Photographer to be present is on our 'Private time' with you alone.



### **Will our Guests & Family be able to see our photos online?**

That's entirely up to you. Your photos will go online in a Password protected gallery, so if you allow your Guests to know what the password is then of course they can view them. Canny Guests know the Password is usually the Bride's new surname, so if you don't wish them to view we need to know that so we can simply add a random letter or number to confuse them.

### **Do you do 'Packages' and are they flexible?**

The beauty of packages is that they are usually a bit cheaper than the sum of their parts. Sometimes, packages mean that you're getting exactly the same Album; number of images; look of Album etc. as the last 100 couples is at best disappointing. Your Wedding is UNIQUE to you, so why shouldn't your Wedding Photography & how it's presented be unique to you too – The best of both worlds.

### **What sort of Professional training have you undertaken in the last 12 months?**

On-going training in Photography is all part of being a Wedding Photographer, and anyone committed to their art should be attending at least 2-3 day long events every year to hone their skills, learn new ones and refresh their style. Sadly most Wedding Photographers don't seem to value such on-going training, and their work stagnates and becomes boring & formulaic as a result.

### **How many photos can I have in my Album?**

In the 'package' scenario then you are usually restricted to a certain number; in my system you can have as few or as many as you like & your budget allows. The largest Storybook albums by the world's best supplier, GraphiStudio, can be 100 pages and open to 1 metre wide making them HUGE!!! Few ever need more than about 70 pages, and 40-50 is the norm, representing around 100-130 photos.

In the world of the 'package' Wedding Photographer the usual answer is 'NO' – that would be another nail in the coffin for those packages then, as the my route has no such restrictions.

Your album will be designed around your photographs. It is charged by the size of the album, the cover type and the number of pages – Not by the number of photos.

I send out a PDF which shows the layout of the album – you decide if you want to increase the number of pages (to include more photos) or, if the design is good to go. Only once you sign the PDF off and pay the cost of the album will it go off for production.

**Do we have to Book you when we meet with you, or can we go away to think about it?**

Of course you need to think about it, choosing your Wedding Photographer is only slightly less important than choosing your husband to be!!! You are welcome to take my advice, and this guide to Choosing your Wedding Photographer, and go investigate, you may well be amazed at how much old fashioned, chancer type, inflexible package selling and often unprofessional dross there is out there!!!

**If we book you will you be our Photographer or will it be someone else, and if it is someone else what if we don't like them?**

Presently, DKH Photography employs only one Wedding Photographer, and that is Dilip Hirani BA Hons.

**Do we get one Photographer or two at our Wedding?**

Presently I operate on the basis of 1 Wedding Photographer per Wedding, and there are a number of advantages to keeping it that way. If you wish to have another Photographer, for example to cover the groom & his party getting ready, then one can be appointed for that role and then stay throughout the rest of your day. I do, from time to time, have a second Wedding Photographer along for training or assisting purposes, unless otherwise agreed, such training assistance will be FREE of charge to you.

**Can we pay in instalments?**

Of course!!!

Not everyone has an unlimited budget and being able to pay over a number of months can make life so much easier for many. Your Wedding Shoot Fee must be paid in full prior to your Wedding day, and we will only commence to work on any Albums, etc. orders once they have been paid in full too; so purchasing your Album can be done many weeks or months after your Wedding Many of our clients love this flexibility as it allows those on smaller budgets to blow more money on their Honeymoon!!!

If you'd like to meet me to discuss your Wedding plans, get in touch:

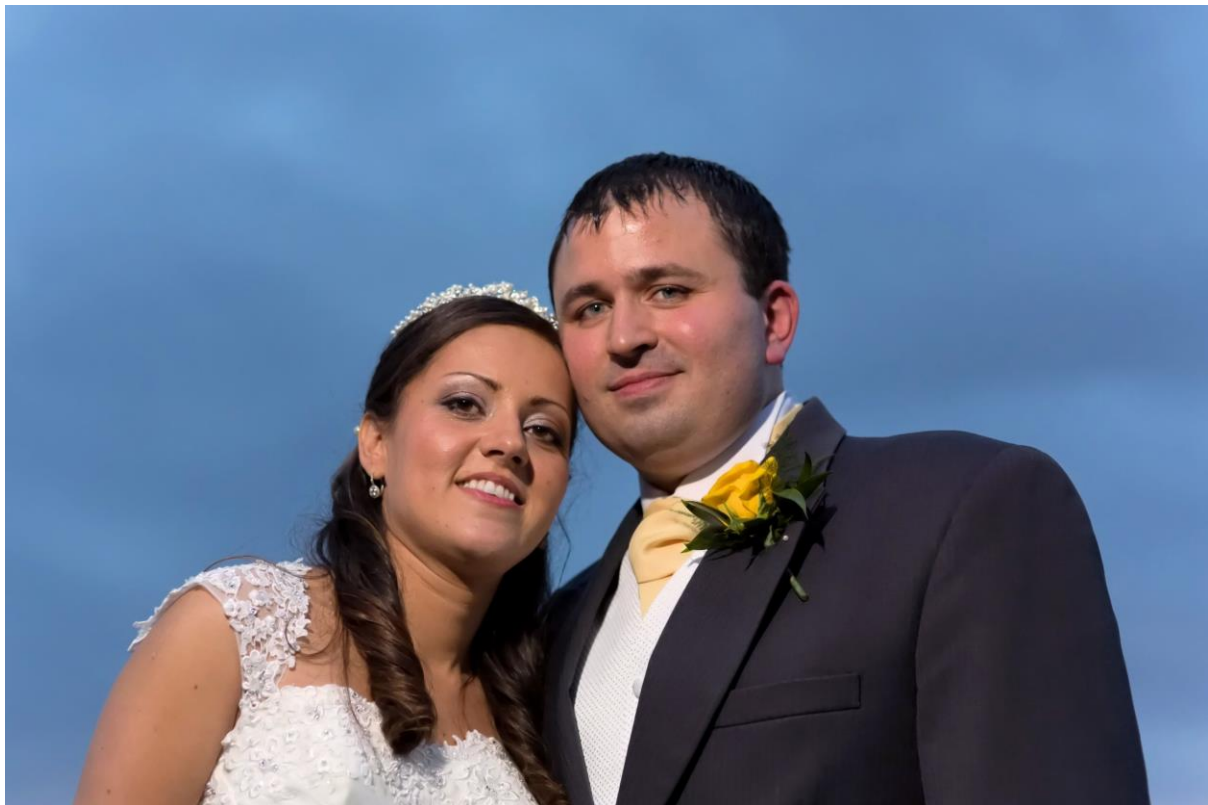
**dilip@dkh-photography.com**

or

**call on: 0800 135 7851 – 020 8312 9966 - 07886 287 453**

I look forward to seeing you soon & shooting your FAB Wedding, but if for any reason you choose another Wedding Photographer, then I sincerely hope you have a FAB Wedding and lots of FAB photos to remember it all by. I am sure you've heard this before, but... once your Wedding is over, the flowers are dead and the cake is eaten the ONLY thing you have to help remember it all by are your Wedding Photos & Album etc.

So choose your Wedding Photographer wisely!!!



## **FAQs to PRINT and ask in Choosing your Wedding Photographer**

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