

## Questions to Ask Photographers

- What's the photographer's primary style—traditional posed shots and portraits or photojournalism? (You must see their work to know the real answer to this question.)
- What is his or her philosophy about shooting weddings? (This will give you an idea of the person's expertise and passion for his or her work, too.)
- Does the photographer shoot in color, black and white, or both?
- Does the photographer shoot film or digitally?
- How independent is the photographer? Does he or she prefer that you describe exactly what you want, or would he or she rather be given free rein to capture the festivities on film in the way he or she sees fit? (This is a matter of how you two will work together.)
- Will the photographer you talk to be the one taking the pictures at your wedding? (This is crucial! Each photographer's style is his or her own.)
- Has the photographer done many weddings? (A photographer who doesn't specialize in weddings is a risk. You want someone who's experienced with how a wedding works so that key moments aren't missed.)
- Will the photographer be shooting any other wedding on your wedding day? (You don't want them to have any time constraints.)
- Is he or she open to a list of must-take photos (the people whom you definitely want shots of)?
- How does the photographer determine price? Is it by the number and kind of prints you think you'll want, the hours the photographer works your wedding, developing time, a combination of all of these? Are there packages available? Can you get a price list?
- How will you first be shown photos? (Options are: contact sheets, numbered proofs [small photos], CD-ROM, videotape, in-studio slide show, or on the photographer's Web site.)
- What kind of lighting and other equipment (such as tripods) does the photographer use? Does he/she bring along backup equipment in case of an emergency?
- Does the photographer develop his or her own film? How long does he/she keep negatives? Can you buy your negatives from the photographer?