

A SHORT GUIDE FOR COUPLES

Before Your Wedding Day

How to get ready for your photo and video team, and what we will ask you for.

START HERE

Most of a great gallery is decided before the day.

Congratulations. You are planning a day that happens once, and the photos and film are the part you keep. The good news is that most of what makes them good comes from small decisions you make ahead of time. Each one takes a few minutes.

This is the short version of what we wish every couple knew. Read it together, fill in the checklist on the last page, and send it to us.

1 **A timeline written in the order things happen**
With travel time, and some extra time on top.

2 **Light and space for getting ready**
One bright room, with the details in one place.

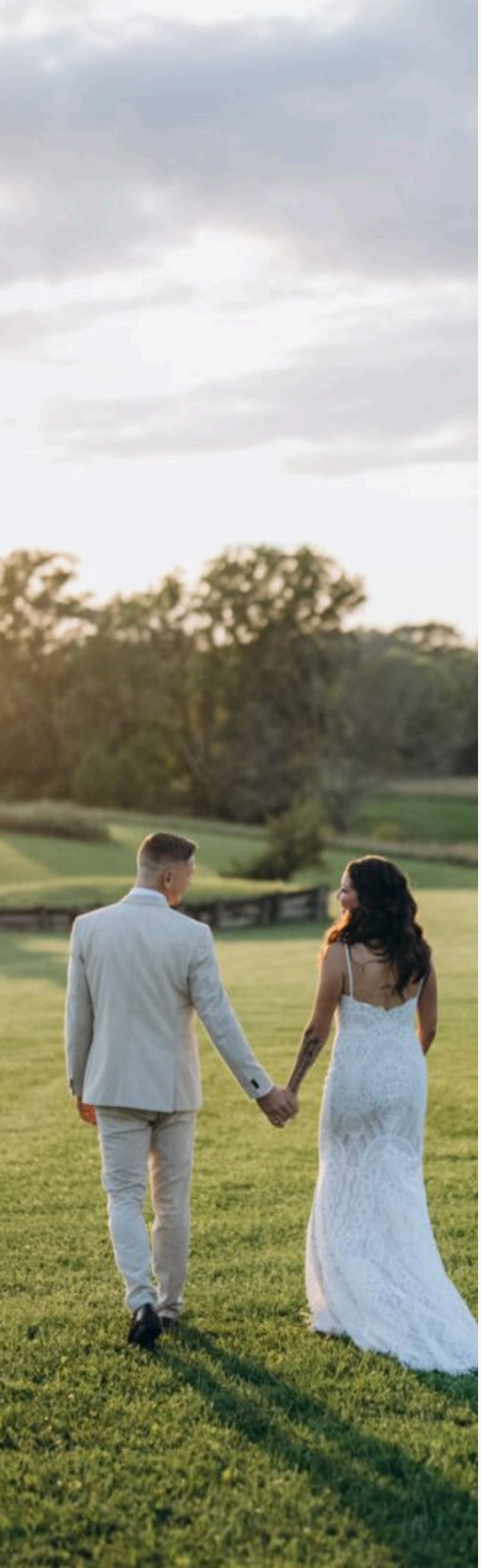
3 **A family list and one helper**
Someone who knows who is who.

4 **A few must-have moments**
Short list. We read it twice.

5 **A real break for your team**
A hot meal and a few minutes to sit down.







ONE

Write the day in the order it happens.

Start with the ceremony time and work backwards. Add the drive between places, then add a little more. Photos and film are made in the gaps: the walk to the car, the minutes before the doors open, the pause after the last guest sits down.

If there are gaps, there are pictures. If every minute is full, we can only photograph the schedule.

Decide about a first look

Seeing each other before the ceremony gives you calmer portraits and more time with your guests afterwards. Waiting until the aisle gives you a reaction nobody can repeat. Both are good. Choose one on purpose.

Tell us everything that happens

Every ceremony, tradition, performance and entrance, and the order they come in. We would rather ask many questions this month than miss a moment on the day.

TWO

Getting ready: choose one bright room.

Window light is the best light you will have all morning. Pick the room with the biggest window, tidy it the night before, and open the curtains.

Put the details in one box

Rings, invitation, shoes, jewelry, perfume, and your vows if you wrote them. Details look beautiful when they are together on a plain surface. They are hard to photograph when they are in four bags in three rooms.

Hang the dress by the window

A hanger on a plain door works. Please do not hang it in front of a bathroom or a cluttered wall.

Give hair and makeup the end time

Tell them when you must be finished, not when to start. Leave time after the last brush stroke for pictures before you leave.

> Three or four people in the room is plenty. The fewer people, the more natural everyone feels.





THREE

Family photos go fast when there is a list.

Write the groups down before the day, in the order you want them, with names. Start with the biggest group and take people away one set at a time: everyone, then one side, then parents, then grandparents. That way people leave the frame one by one, not all at once.

Ask one relative to be the helper

Pick someone who knows everyone. While we photograph one group, the helper gathers the next. This one person saves more time than anything else on this page.

Tell us who needs care

Grandparents who cannot stand for long, relatives who flew in, anyone who prefers not to be photographed. We will plan around it.

Keep the list short. A long list takes longer than you think, and your guests are waiting for you at the cocktail hour.

FOUR

The ceremony and the evening.

Ask your venue about the rules

Churches and some venues have rules about flash, moving during the ceremony and where we can stand. One call to the venue now saves an awkward moment later. Tell us what they say.

Think about an unplugged ceremony

When guests hold up phones, your aisle fills with screens. A small sign, or one sentence from your officiant, asking guests to put phones away gives you a clearer photo and a more present room.

Plan the speeches

Decide who speaks, in what order, and how long each person has. It keeps the evening moving, and it helps us be in the right place.

Feed your photo and video team

Ask your caterer for a vendor meal. A real break in a quiet part of the evening keeps the team sharp until the last dance. Tell us where to eat, and when.





THE CHECKLIST

What we need from you.

Send us what you have a few weeks before the day. It does not need to be perfect, and we will go through it together.

- [ ] Your timeline for the day, even if it is still a draft.
- [ ] The address of every place we will be, with parking and entrance notes.
- [ ] Your family group list, with names.
- [ ] A short list of must-have moments, the ones you cannot imagine missing.
- [ ] The order of your ceremonies, traditions and performances, and who leads each one.
- [ ] Your vendor list: planner, DJ, florist, hair and makeup, with phone numbers.
- [ ] One person we can call on the day with a question. Not you.
- [ ] Anything we should know: people who prefer not to be photographed, family sensitivities, mobility needs.
- [ ] Where we will eat, and when.



TARA WEDDINGS · TORONTO, ONTARIO

We would love to hear about your day.

Wedding photography and videography, made to be kept.

taraweddings.ca
info@taraweddings.ca