

# Blue *Line* Photography LLC

*Keep in mind that this is YOUR day, NOT the Venue owners, DJ's, photographers, or caterers. They all work for you and you control the pace of the day. Please do not take any of these suggestions to heart. These are only suggestions and things to consider to help on your big day. We are here to help.*

## **Things to think about for your special day:**

- Do I have a DJ? If so, do they have the proper equipment and lighting?
- Will the DJ play music that everyone can dance to during the reception?
- Do I have a Song List I want played at my Wedding / Reception?
- Once you do have a list of songs, make sure the DJ has it and is aware of how you want it played.
- Do I have a wedding / Ceremony schedule? We suggest you have a list of things you want to do for your ceremony / reception. If so is it listed in order by time?

*Example: Cake cutting, First Dance, Father / daughter dance, Mother / son dance, Garter throwing, Bouquet throwing, Best man speech / toast, Bridesmaid speech / toast.*

- Once you have a schedule for the wedding ceremony / reception make sure the DJ, videographer, and photographer has a copy so they know what's coming and can prepare for it.
- Will my venue be handicap accessible for family / friends?
- If this is an outdoor wedding, do I have a plan in case of bad weather?
- Will I have ushers to seat people?
- Arrange seating thoughtfully. Make sure you put guests with people / family they know. It makes it more comfortable and enjoyable for your guests.
- Will there be a guest sign-in book?
- Will there be a sign that says please silence all cell phones for the ceremony or will the ushers remind them?
- Remember, after the group photos are taken of the bride and broom and wedding party, it is also customary for the DJ to introduce everyone back into the room for the reception. Tell your bridal party not to enter the room until called back in and have someone tell the DJ when to do so.
- Do I have a person / planner to help with the schedule of the wedding? On your wedding day, it's about you. We recommend that you choose a person to be your "Go to" person in case questions or issues should arise. You will have enough to do on that day.
- Do you have comfortable shoes to wear at the reception? This is a must. By the end of the day you will want comfortable shoes to change into.

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## **Things to think about for your special day (Continued):**

- Make sure you tell everyone not to lock their knees while standing during the ceremony. You can pass out / faint. Stay loose.
- Will I have a receiving line after the ceremony? After the ceremony, it is customary to line up the bridal party at a designated location for congratulations prior to the group photos and meal. This works for so many reasons. This gives people a chance to get up and stretch between the ceremony and reception and gives the caterer's time to set up the meal. This also gives the photographer time to transition any equipment they may have.
- Make sure that you are NOT the one tasked with paying the Venue, Photographer, DJ, or caterers at the end of the night, if you can avoid it. It's too much to remember or worry about on your day. Designate a person to make sure everything is settled at the end of the night.

## **Photography Tips to consider:**

- Will the lighting in the venue be adequate for photo taking and guests to be able to see?
- Do I want the ceremony / reception video recorded as well?
- Hold your bouquet low. It's better for photos / video.
- Walk slowly down the aisle. Nerves can get the best of you and cause you to walk fast when you don't realize it. Try and take your time. It's better for photos.
- A general family / bridal party photo session lasts about 45 minutes after the ceremony. Make sure everyone knows this and is ready. After the ceremony / receiving line, your bridal party and/or family members may want to wander off making it difficult to get everyone gathered up for photos.
- Do I want a photo booth / studio set up for family and friends? Blue Line Photography offers a portable photo studio for your big day if you want it. Keep in mind that we cannot take photos the entire time at this area due to the ceremony / reception schedule however we will do our best to operate it as much as possible. It is also suggested that the studio be set up away from the ceremony / reception area. Maybe in a small room?
- Please keep us in the loop of what is about to happen if we don't have a schedule. This helps for us to get into position. Designate a person to let us know (The DJ usually does this).
- Do You want a photo of the rings?
- If there is something you wish to do photo-wise just ask. We will do our best to make it happen!

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*The below schedule is only suggestions and things to consider. You make your wedding how you want it. It's your day!*

## **TRADITIONAL WEDDING RECEPTION SCHEDULE (Not necessarily in order):**

**The Cocktail Hour:** This time is reserved for when the Bride and Groom have completed the ceremony and have went to a designated area with the photographer and wedding party. This takes 45 minutes to an hour.

**Newlyweds and bridal party enter back into the room:** This is the part were you make your grand entrance, assisted by the DJ.

**First Dance:** Your first dance as a married couple.

**The Blessing before the meal:** Usually a family member or friend will say the blessing prior to the meal (depending on your faith).

**The Meal:** If your having a seated meal, the DJ will usually play subdued music during this time. It's a time for everyone to unwind. The DJ usually excuses tables to go up and get their meals. The bride and groom are usually first to eat. This is important. This allows for you to get done eating early and make your rounds to speak with your guests.

**Father / Daughter Dance:** Bride dances with father

**Mother / Son Dance:** Groom dances with mother

**Cake Cutting:** This is the part you can have some fun on. You can be nice and give each other a gentle bite of the cake, or you can have fun with it. We suggest having fun with feeding your significant other. It makes for a great time and the photos are better. But completely up to you.

**Party Time:** The DJ invites everyone to dance and cut up. Try and get your guests on the dance floor ASAP. It helps people to loosen up. We suggest the **Money Dollar Dance** during this. This is a fun activity you can do. This helps the newlyweds in starting their life together. Guests make a donation to dance with the bride and groom collected by the either the best man or the bridesmaid. When the next person comes up with a donation, the bride or groom begins dancing with that person and so on. You can also do the **Longest Married Couple Dance**. This makes your guests feel special. All married couples go out onto the dance floor and begin dancing. The DJ says if you have been married from 1-5 years have a seat. Then 6-10, then 10-15, then 16-20 and so on until there is only one couple left dancing.

**Bouquet Toss:** The Bride tosses the bouquet over her shoulder to a group of single women. Whoever catches it is supposed to be the next one married.

**Garter Removal / Toss:** The Groom removes the garter from his bride's leg. The Groom then tosses the garter over his shoulder to a group of single men. Whoever catches it is supposed to be the next one married.

**Last Dance:** Bride and Grooms last dance. Usually guests join in.

**REMEMBER, NOTHING EVER GOES EXACTLY TO PLAN. IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY. HAVE FUN! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT ANYTHING FEEL FREE TO ASK US, EVEN IF IT'S NOT PHOTOGRAPHY RELATED. WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**