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# Videography

## **MAIN VIDEO**

Next to your photo album, videography is the best way to preserve your wedding memories. Unlike photographs, videography captures the mood of wedding day in motion and sound. You have the option of selecting one, two or three cameras. The more cameras used, the more action captured and the more expensive. An experienced videographer, however, can do a good job with just one camera.

A good videographer is unobtrusive and knows how to capture all the most important moments of your wedding. Cameras no longer have to be giant bulky things, as many videographers are switching to digital format. Digital technology also now means that you may receive a DVD instead of a video!

You will need to choose the type of video you want-do you want the footage edited down to a 30 minute film, or do you want an “as it happened” replay? You may wish to have both of these so you can see all the details, but have a shorter version that flows nicely well. Remember, a short format video requires a lot of time in the editing room and will cost considerably more. Your personal film can take as much as 15-30 hours to put together!

**Things to Consider:** be sure to hire a videographer who specializes in weddings, and ask to see samples of his or her work. Pay particular attention to details such as special effects, titles, and background music. Find out what’s included in the cost of your package so there are no surprises at the end!

**Beware:** As in photography, there are many companies with more than one videographer. These companies may use the work of their best videographer to sell their packages and then send a less experienced videographer to the wedding. Again, don’t get caught in this trap! Be sure to interview the videographer who will shoot your wedding so you can get a good idea of his/her style and personality. Ask to see his/her own work.

**Tips to save money:** Compare videographers' quality, value and price. There is a wide range, and the most expensive is not necessarily the best. One camera is the most cost effective and may be all you need. You may save overall.

Ask a family member or close friend to videotape your wedding. However, realize that without professional equipment and expertise the final product may not be quite the same.

**Price Range:** \$600-\$4,000

### **Titles**

Titles and subtitles can be edited into your video before or after the filming. Titles are important since twenty years from now you may not remember the exact time of your wedding or the names of your bridal party members. Some videographers charge more for titling. Make sure you discuss this with your videographer and get in writing exactly what titles will be included.

**Options:** Titles may include the date, time and location of the wedding, the bride and groom's names, and names of special family members and or bridal party. Titles may also include special thanks to those who helped with the wedding. You can then send these people a copy of your video after the wedding, which would be a very appropriate and inexpensive gift!

**Tips to save money:** Consider asking for limited titles, such as the only names of the bride and groom and the date and time of the wedding.

**Price Range:** \$50-\$300

## **EXTRA HOURS**

Find out how much your videographer would charge to stay longer than contracted for in case your reception lasts longer than expected. Don't forget to get this in writing.

**Tips to save money:** Avoid paying extra hours beyond what's included in your selected package. You can do this by calculating the number of hours you think you'll need and negotiating that into your package price. Consider taping the ceremony only.

**Price Range:** \$35-\$150/hour

## **PHOTO MONTAGE**

A photo montage is a series of photographs set to music on video. The number of photographs depends on the length of the songs and the amount of time allotted for each photograph. A typical song usually allows for approximately 30 to 40 photographs. Photo montages are a great way to display and reproduce your photographs. Copies of this video can be made for considerably less than the cost of reproducing photographs.

**Options:** Photo montages can include photos of you and your fiancé growing up, the rehearsal, the wedding day, the honeymoon, or any combination thereof.

**Things to Consider:** Send copies of your photo montage video to close friends and family members as mementos of your wedding.

**Price range:** \$50-\$500

## **EXTRA COPIES**

A professional videographer can reproduce your video much better than you can. Ask your videographer how much he/she charges. You'll certainly want to give your parents a copy!

**Price Range:** \$35-\$450

## **Questions to Ask:**

What is the name and phone number of the videographer?

What is the website and email address of the videographer?

What is the address of the videographer?

How many years of experience do you have as a videographer?

Approximately how many weddings have you videotaped?

Are you the person who will be doing my wedding?

Who will be the second camera man?

What type of equipment do you use?

Do you have a wireless microphone?

What format do you use?

Do you bring back up equipment with you?

Do you visit the rehearsal?

Do you edit the tape after the event and where is the footage kept?

When will I receive the final product?

What is your payment/cancellation policy?