



Questions to ask your potential wedding photographer - as taken from Here Comes The Guide - HereComesTheGuide.com

Do you have my date available? If we are having this meeting, the chances are we have your date available and are very excited to talk with you about the details of your wedding and what you are looking for in a photographer.

How far in advance do I need to book with you? It is common that most of our clients will book as far in advance as eighteen months. This secures you the rate that we are offering at the present time rather than what is offered in a year or two.

How long have you been in business? Alexis has been a wedding photographer for 10 years, while Keith has been shooting weddings for about 2 years but has been a photographer for 12 years on a professional level. Alexis carries a BFA in Photography from Rhode Island School of Design while Keith is a self-taught photographer who has years of experience with portraiture, music, fashion, lifestyle, and events.

How many weddings have you shot? Alexis Stein Photography has shot a combined 300+ weddings.

Have you shot many weddings similar in style to mine? Each couple is unique; therefore, each wedding is unique. Some might be similar in fashion or location but what really matters is THE COUPLE. We embrace what the couple loves and adores about one another and like to bring that to life in our photographs. The couple's personalities should shine through in the photographs and we feel we really capture the true essence of each couple to the very best of our ability. In our careers as photographers we have covered many different styles of weddings. Here is a list of the types of wedding we have photographed: Traditional, Catholic, Coptic, Orthodox, Jewish, Greek, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Caribbean, Latin-American, Vow Renewal, Persian, Indian, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Armenian, African, Destination, Beach, Gay & Lesbian, DIY/Off-Beat, Backyard...to name a few.

How would you describe your photography style? Alexis Stein Photography has two photographers so we can offer many styles of photography to each couple we shoot. The most common way we shoot is photo-journalistic with an artistic flair while maintaining a level of traditional photography. We have also been known to shoot in a conceptual manner and often bring props to our shoots to add some more personality and humor to the shot. Both Alexis and Keith possess the ability to shoot in traditional, classic, modern, photo-journalistic, illustrative, high fashion, commercial, and natural light photography.

What do you think distinguishes your work from that of other photographers? As stated earlier we approach each wedding focusing on the couple. We get to know the couple to the best of our ability and love to capture them in their element. Our personal service brings more to the table when it comes time to shoot since we are able to make you feel as comfortable as possible in front of the camera. Our work is also a little edgier in terms of composition and style.

Do you have a portfolio I can review? Of course, we have our website AlexisSteinPhoto.com as well a blog with more recent work that is updated shortly after each wedding and engagement session we shoot.

Are all of the images yours? Yes, all images that Alexis Stein Photography uses for promotion and within its online, printed portfolio, and albums is property of Alexis Stein Photography and was taken by either Alexis or Keith.

Is all the work recent? Our site is kept up to date and so is our blog. Our site also contains images that span our lengthy careers as photographers so we can show you the consistency of the quality of work over the years.

What type of equipment do you use? We like to keep all of our equipment up-to-date and use the latest in Canon professional DSLR camera bodies, Canon L glass lenses, Canon flash units, Norman external flash units, and about 100gb of storage. For processing MAC with the latest version of Photoshop is used.

Are you shooting in digital or film format? We prefer to shoot our weddings with digital cameras since we feel the quality is equal to that of film in this day and age. We can shoot special film upon request.

Do you shoot in color AND black & white? Both? We shoot all of our images in RAW format, which allows us to post-process the images into any format that you would like. However, Alexis Stein Photography prides itself on being one of the only wedding photography studios that gives each couple their photographs in color and black & white both in high-resolution and low-resolution (so you can plaster them all over Facebook) at no extra cost. Our images come to you on a disc with a letter giving you the personal usage rights to YOUR images that you already paid for at no extra cost. All of our images, whether they are high or low-resolution are unbranded as well. Meaning we do not, by any means, put our logo on the photograph.

Can we give you a list of specific shots we would like? Of course, by all means, we love it when a couple takes charge and tells us what they love and need the day of the wedding. There might be something that stands out to you that we normally would not think of. You may also want to compile a list of group shots you would like taken and designate a runner (bridesmaid, best man, or close family friend) to gather the people who are to be in these shots. So, bring on the list and we will complete it.

What information do I need to provide you before the wedding day? During our meetings we will be sure to ask all the necessary questions that will help us on the day of the wedding. Most of the information we will need will be provided for us on your contract.

May I have a list of references? Of course, we can furnish you a list of references upon request. You can also take a look at our 5 star rating on WeddingWire.com - search Alexis Stein Photography in zip code 11776.

Are you the photographer that will shoot my wedding? Absolutely, Alexis Stein Photography is a professional wedding

photography couple and we pride ourselves on the fact that we alone run this business and do not out-source and of the work that comes into our studio. At the time of signing your contract we list that we will be at your event and no one can take our places.

Do you have back-up equipment? Of course, we make sure to have extra equipment on hand in the case that something we are using is not working properly. Luckily, we have not had any issues with our equipment since we keep all of it up-to-date.

What happens if you are unable to shoot my wedding for some reason? Alexis Stein Photography signs a contract with each couple to lock down a date and insure that we will be present at your event. Our contract states that the only thing that could keep us from an event is something that keeps you from the event as well (i.e. a natural disaster).

If my wedding site is out of your area, do you charge a travel fee and what does it cover? Before signing your contract we will estimate the cost of travel to and from your event and agree on an amount. Travel expenses could include gas, tolls, airfare, lodging, car rental, food, and more. All of this will be discussed in full detail before moving forward. Both parties must agree to the terms before signing the contract.

Are you photographing any other weddings on the same day as mine? Absolutely not, Alexis Stein Photography only takes on one wedding a day; there is no exception to this rule.

How will you be dressed? We dress comfortably in a style that suits your event. Once again, this is something that will be discussed prior to your wedding. We also do our best to wear neutral colors so we do not stand out.

Is it ok if people take photos while you're taking photos? We do our best to blend in with the guests and perform our jobs to the very best of our ability. We want you as the client to understand and know what you are paying for and sometimes if people are shooting alongside us it can jeopardize the quality of the images. Therefore it is always best if we allot the time needed to get all of the photos you want and need from your wedding. Under no circumstances should a prosumer, friend with a professional grade camera, or professional be taking pictures alongside us at the wedding as that can result in a conflict of interest for both parties involved. In our contract, it states that Alexis Stein Photography should be the only professional shooting your wedding. We do, however, encourage your guests to take as many photos as they like with point-and-shoot cameras.

Have you ever worked at my wedding site before? Alexis Stein Photography has been to many sites worldwide so chances are good that we have been to your wedding site. However, in the case that we have not, we can set up a meeting at the site and go over shooting locations long or shortly before the wedding. Please note, Alexis Stein Photography has 20 years combined experience in photography and shooting events and has been new to venues many times. Under no circumstances has this got in the way of the level of our work and creativity. Our experience allows us to expertly analyze the location and its restrictions, lighting, and what the site has to offer visually.

What time will you arrive and how long will you shoot for? This is agreed upon prior to signing the contract and discussed in the weeks prior to the event. Most plans offered with Alexis Stein Photography are for the length of your event from start to finish with two photographers.

If my event lasts longer than expected, will you stay? Is there an additional charge? As stated in the above question, most plans we offer come with two photographers for the length of your event. Should you hire us a la carte and go for a plan that is 6, 8, or 10 hours and your event goes over that time we charge \$400.00 per hour for two photographers and \$250.00 per hour for one photographer.

What plans do you offer? All of our plans are highlighted in a PDF that you can download off of our investment page of our website AlexisSteinPhoto.com or can be handed to in-person at a consultation.

Can I customize a plan based on my needs? Alexis Stein Photography offers three carefully put together plans that suit most couples. However, if you have something else in mind we can formulate a plan a la carte that fits your needs and wants for your wedding.

Do you include engagement photos in your plans? If you book one of our platinum or diamond plans an engagement session is included in your plan. You can book an engagement shoot prior to signing your contract for a test run for \$400.00 for a 2 hour session and that amount will be credited toward your balance upon signing your contract.

What type of albums do you offer? All of our albums are handcrafted, lay flat, flush-mount albums with a variety of album finishes such as leather or book cloth offered in a array of colors and come in 20-60 pages.

How many photos does the typical album yield? It depends on the size album you decide on. Typically most couples choose to go with a 30-40 page album and will have as many as 75-100 photos.

What types of album designs are offered? All of the albums we design are a magazine style with layouts such as modern, traditional, vintage, or a mixture of all three.

Do you provide assistance in creating an album? Most of our couples give us creative control when it comes to designing an album. This can speed up the process. Of course, we send along a proofing of the album layout for approval prior to going to production. You can also decide to take over the creative control and pick the photos you would like to feature in your album and we will design it for you.

How long does it take to receive our album? It depends on whether you decide to choose the photos that will appear in the album or give us creative control. If we are given creative control it can cut the time you receive your album in half. In most cases when we design the albums you should receive them within three months from your wedding date.

Do you retouch and color correct your photographs before we receive our disc? Alexis Stein Photography gives every client a disc of post-processed images, which will include the proper color correction and retouching. More extensive work is put into the photos that are to be featured in the album and for print orders.

Will you give us the digital images or digital negatives? Is there an extra fee for this? Alexis Stein Photography provides all of their clients with a letter giving you the rights to your photographs in the form of digital images. We do not release the RAW files (digital negatives) to any of their clients. We do however, give you the highest quality JPG available for print. This size image could be used to make a billboard sized print.

How long after the wedding will our photos be viewable online? We post a photo gallery for you, family, and friends to view about two weeks after your wedding. This gallery is posted for one year from the date of your event and can be

password protected for privacy. If you choose to password protect your wedding we can give you a password or you can provide one for us. We will make a gallery card with a link to your images and the date it will be viewable. This card will be presented at your sign-in table. If you do not have a sign in table we can arrange something else so your guests are informed as to where the photos will be posted online.

How long after the wedding will we receive our disc? Proofs? Your disc will be mailed to your door via USPS within 4-6 weeks of your event. You are also welcome to pick the disc up once it is ready. Your 4x6 proofs (if ordered with plan) will be available at the same time as your disc.

What is the ordering process for prints? You can place orders online from your online gallery for museum quality archival prints (we do not recommend printing from your local convenience/drug store). Orders can also be placed via phone or email. You can also order prints as part of your plan at the time of signing your contract for a better value. Alexis Stein Photography offers an incentive program for couples whose guests order prints from their online gallery. For example \$100.00 in orders from the gallery will get you a free 12x18 photo, \$200.00 in orders will get you a 16x24 photo.

How long after I order our photos will we get them? Upon placing your order we fine tune each image and make sure all blemishes are removed and the photo is 100% perfect. An order is placed with our lab and shipped to our door for studio approval. We then ship the order to you or you can pick it up.

When will I receive a written contract? We will give you a copy of your contract upon signing with Alexis Stein Photography with a deposit. A sample of our contract can be provided to you upon request for review.

How much of a deposit do you require and when is it due? All deposits must be made at the time of signing the contract to book your date. The deposit amount depends on the plan you choose for your event. Deposits are always 1/3 of the total balance of your account.

Do you offer a payment plan? Yes, our plans are broken down in a way to make it easier for you. You will be required to make three payments of equal amounts at the time of signing your contract, another payment at the half-way point to your event (on the 1st or 15th of the month), and the final payment is due no later than 2 weeks prior to the event date (on the 1st or 15th of the month) so that no money is exchanged the day of your wedding. You should not have to worry about us hassling you over the balance or paying a bill on one of the happiest days of your lives.

What is your refund or cancellation policy? We understand that things can sometimes happen, however, we are not held accountable for your deposit should you have to cancel our services for your event. We book all of our events with clients far in advance to secure a day of work for our studio. If there is a cancellation we may not be able to book that day for another client. If you make any payments after your deposit those will be refunded to you in the form of a check and your deposit can be used as a credit for photography services with Alexis Stein Photography (non-transferrable) at a later date.

Do you have liability insurance? Alexis Stein Photography carries 1.5 million dollar liability insurance and equipment insurance with PPA (Professional Photographers of America). A copy of our insurance policy can be sent to your venue should they need it on hand for your event.

Do you offer videography? No, we do not, however, we work with many professional videographers and will be happy to provide you with their information upon booking with Alexis Stein Photography. Upon booking we will also give you our preferred vendor list and various discounts they offer when you book with Alexis Stein Photography for your event.

Roughly how many photos will we receive from the wedding? It really depends on a lot of things. We like to say that we will be giving you an unlimited amount of images. Typically an event that lasts 8 hours with a lively bunch of people can yield anywhere from 600-800 photos when you have 2 photographers.

How many photos will we receive from our engagement session? Your disc will come to you with as many as 100 photos from your engagement session. We give them to you in the same format as our event clients (color and black & white in both high and low-resolution).

How should we dress for our engagement session? We like to tell couples to be themselves while not clashing completely. It is best to stay with neutral colors with a splash of color. For example, a little red sundress can be accented with silver jewelry and your partner can wear dark jeans with a black or white button down shirt and a red tie to play-off the dress. Do your best to stay away from bold loud colors or busy patterns. Oh, and bring props or anything that is really important to you, or your wedding. You are also welcome to bring a change of clothes to give the shoot some variety.

How do you choose a location for our engagement session? First of all, we like to know where YOU would like to have your engagement photos shot? Tell us a little about where you met or a special place you like to spend your free time. It can be a local park, a restaurant, a college hangout, the beach, the city, you name it and we will go there. If you let us choose it may not fit your style. We interview each of our couples and discuss a place that works best beforehand.