

7 Wedding Situations

Photographers Have to Be Ready For

1 **Guests shooting and filming with their phones.** Ask the wedding coordinator or witness to explain to guests in advance that they shouldn't stick their arms out into the aisle, so that they don't ruin photos of the pair walking down the aisle. If waving phones still do work their way into the frame, patiently seek a different angle.

2 **Cameramen and other photographers** aren't a situation per se, but you might become a "situation" for them. You need to be respectful and cooperate to keep from ruining each other's pictures.

3 **Guests' unwillingness to be photographed.** Are they making the excuse that they're so ugly they'd make the lens crack? It's good to think up an answer in advance. After all, you don't want the bride's sister to be missing from the wedding photos just because she's afraid of the lens. You can try these: *"You're doing it to delight your sister,"* and *"Don't worry, I retouch my pictures."*

4 **Guests who try to slip away right after the ceremony** need to be stopped with help from the coordinator and informed that a group photo will follow. Also be sure to plan the photo of all the wedding guests so it's immediately after the ceremony, and to literally start with that big group photo, and only then move on to smaller groups.

5 **Timeline slips** are a situation to simply avoid. Agree with the bride and the groom in advance on the time when you can "borrow" them for a photo together and what location they'd like. Then respect that timeline, because there may well be a hundred hungry guests waiting for the three of you.

6 **An agreement with the priest or registrar,** on the other hand, is a great situation to have. Set it up. Introduce yourself to them and ask them to keep you in mind during the ceremony and to slow it down—give you space—at important moments. If you don't know where to move around in a church as a "civilian," have them tell you.

7 **Having pictures of every relative.** It might seem obvious that you want this. But a reminder can't hurt. It's not just important to have the newlyweds and their parents in your pictures. You never know who's important for the wedding couple, so try to have at least one picture of each person.

