

Amanda Galvin Photography

Frequently Asked Questions

- Weddings
- [Portraiture](#)
- [Corporate Events/Commercial Ads](#)

Wedding FAQs:

1. [What is a “full resolution” CD and why do you offer one?](#)
2. [How much time should I leave for photos between my ceremony and reception?](#)
3. [What about copyright restrictions?](#)
4. [The package I want doesn’t include parent albums – can I purchase them separately?](#)
5. [What is the difference between a “proof book” and an “album” as noted in your packages?](#)
6. [I’ve heard a lot about nightmare photographers – what should I look for in a professional?](#)
7. [How many photos on average do you shoot at a wedding?](#)
8. [I’m not sure where to go for photos in between the ceremony and reception – can you recommend a location?](#)
9. [You shot my wedding years ago, and I’ve lost my full resolution CD!](#)
10. [I’m a bit self conscious – how can I look my best in photos?](#)
11. [Do you have references?](#)
12. [What weather is best for outdoor photos?](#)
13. [I have a feature that I’m not fond of – can you avoid photographing it?](#)
14. [I’m torn between two photographers – how can I form my decision?](#)
15. [Since everyone will be together, can you arrange a family photo at my wedding?](#)
16. [How long after the wedding will I wait to receive my prints?](#)
17. [What tips can you offer to help the day run smoothly?](#)
18. [I’m concerned about my wedding being visible to anyone visiting your website – can my catalog be password protected?](#)
19. [I’ve heard about problems arising between photographers and videographers – will my videographer be an issue?](#)
20. [Can you remove skin blemishes?](#)
21. [So I have my full resolution CD – where should I have photos printed?](#)
22. [I’m having trouble choosing the prints I’d like in my album – where should I start?](#)
23. [What if I want you to stay longer than you’re contracted?](#)
24. [What if your equipment malfunctions on my wedding day?](#)
25. [What if you fall ill on my wedding day?](#)

26. [What if my church doesn't allow flash during the ceremony?](#)
27. [What if my wedding is postponed or canceled?](#)

Answers:

1. What is a "full resolution" CD and why do you offer one?

A full resolution CD is the digital equivalent of a negative, and necessary for quality prints – most importantly enlargements. Files on full resolution CD are files that have not been compressed or digitally "shrunk". I provide these as a courtesy to my customers – while I retain copies of everything I shoot, I see no reason in holding originals from my clients...most professional photographers will not release files at full resolution, which I find it rather silly – after all, they're your photos!

[Top of the Document](#)

2. How much time should I leave for photos between my ceremony and reception?

A great starting point is between 45 minutes to an hour – an hour and a half is fantastic. Keep in mind – the larger the wedding party, the larger the group to arrange aesthetically for photos. Younger participants typically add a few minutes as well. Be sure to include travel time (and surprise detour time) if photos will be moved to an off-sight location. Most importantly – make sure this time window is discussed with your church's presiding official, wedding planner, and/or venue representative. Many things can present time restraints, so be sure all is clearly defined well before your timeline is finalized.

[Top of the Document](#)

3. What about copyright restrictions?

The copyright of your photos will be jointly owned between Amanda Galvin Photography and yourself as the client. I release copyright to you so that you may print off of your full resolution CD as you wish, and you release copyright to me so that I may use your photos to promote my business (in brochures, online and print portfolio content, etc.). I do provide signed copyright releases to my clients to avoid printing issues through retailers.

[Top of the Document](#)

4. The package I want doesn't include parent albums – can I purchase them separately?

Certainly – prices depend largely on what size album you'd like – feel free to inquire.

[Top of the Document](#)

5. What is the difference between a “proof book” and an “album” as noted in your packages?

“Proof books” are albums that can be purchased at retail stores. “Albums” are available exclusively for resale to professional photographers. I pride myself on offering quality photo storage – none of the proof books/albums I provide will cause your photos to fade.

[Top of the Document](#)

6. I’ve heard a lot about nightmare photographers – what should I look for in a professional?

First, find out who is in your area. Ask your florist, wedding planner, caterer, seamstress, friends, co-workers, etc. If you’ve already booked your reception hall/venue – you might ask their representative.

Once you obtain a few leads, hit the internet. Contemplate your preferred style – is it formal/posed photos, candid shots, or a happy balance of the two? Pay close attention to online portfolios and credentials. Seek out photographers appearing professional, displaying the photos you dream of.

Then narrow it down – perhaps schedule portfolio showings with a few photographers, and get a good feel for them. Ask questions like “How long have you been in business?”, “What special training do you have?”, “How many photos do you take on average?”, and “Do you have a contract?”. Find out what paperwork would be involved if you chose to book with them. How prepared are they? Where do they purchase prints?

It seems with the introduction of digital photography everyone is a “professional”. There are parties that purchase an expensive camera, assist someone with one wedding, obtain zero training, and call themselves professionals. I used to know one of those – this person shot film, had their photos developed at Wal-Mart, and had no contract to speak of. While film is every bit as beautiful as digital, the medium requires immense care in the handling of negatives. If a negative is scratched with even the smallest speck of dust, it is ruined. Thus, this person was unknowingly subjecting them self to mammoth liabilities. Not only were they jeopardizing their clients’ best day, but also dancing in a landmine of potential lawsuits.

Contracts and various documentation pieces protect all parties involved – it is imperative everyone’s expectations are clearly defined. If you aren’t able to outline what you desire on paper, what is most important to you may not be clear to your photographer. Because of this, I not only have a contract, but an information sheet and copyright release form.

Last but not least, you want to be comfortable with your photographer. While price is always a concern, comfort is priceless. You will be surrounded all day by friends and family members – it

is important to have some level of comfort with the “stranger” that will be following you around!

[Top of the Document](#)

7. How many photos on average do you shoot at a wedding?

Anywhere from 300-700, depending on amount of coverage involved. The longer I’m there, the more photos I take!

[Top of the Document](#)

8. I’m not sure where to go for photos in between the ceremony and reception – can you recommend a location?

Absolutely! All I’ll need to know is what you’re looking for – whether it’s a gazebo, covered bridge, water, etc., – I’ve got a pretty good list of locations, so feel free to ask for a suggestion!

Great shooting locations can also be based more on sentimental value than aesthetic – sports fanatics may want to visit their favorite team’s stadium/arena. Whatever you decide, it is important to research what other events may be held on the same date. For example, if you’d like to visit your town center’s gazebo you’ll want to verify a concert wasn’t there the night before. If there was another event held at the location the day prior or the day of, it’s a good idea to contact the city to be sure proper cleaning crews will have come through before we plan on arriving for photos.

[Top of the Document](#)

9. You shot my wedding years ago, and I’ve lost my full resolution CD!

No problem – replacement CDs are available for \$20.00 each (I pay shipping & handling).

[Top of the Document](#)

10. I’m a bit self conscious – how can I look my best in photos?

I receive this question frequently – whether clients feel they have an ill proportioned nose or a couple extra pounds, remember: *you are your own worst critic!* If you have any feature you’d like me to keep an eye on, don’t hesitate to mention it – this is what you’re hiring me for!

To avoid the appearance of:

- A double chin - stand tall with your shoulders back, and an elongated neck. Bending a bit at the waist and standing somewhat at an angle to a camera does wonders for this!

Contrary to popular belief, raising your chin can sometimes **add** to the illusion of a double chin – try to keep your eyes level with the camera’s lens – this brings out natural jaw lines.

- One eye smaller than the other – biologically, almost everyone has one eye slightly larger than the other. No worries – just place yourself so that your smaller eye is closer to the camera. This puts the larger eye farther away and thus balances both features.
- A large nose – try to avoid profile photos. As with anything else, I’m happy to help with this.
- Larger looking arms – when holding your bouquet, try to bring your elbows out a bit, away from your body. What causes arms to look larger is when they are pressed against your torso.
- Last but not least, no worries with blemishes – they can be removed in Photoshop!

Above all – this is your wedding day. A bride comfortable in her own skin is the most radiant of all. Get plenty of sleep, put as much stress on the shelf as you can, and never forget that regardless of any imperfection your significant has already made their decision...to spend the rest of their life with YOU! So don’t get caught up in insecurities – they’ll never find you more beautiful than when you’re walking down that aisle!

[Top of the Document](#)

11. Do you have references?

Yes! Available upon request.

[Top of the Document](#)

12. What weather is best for outdoor photos?

Contrary to popular belief, overcast days are best for photos! While no one should hope for rain, some cloud cover offers the best photographic environment. When sun is unfiltered and at its brightest, colors can be washed out and eyes can appear squinted. Regardless of weather, we can work together creatively to capture the best photos.

[Top of the Document](#)

13. I have a feature that I’m not fond of – can you avoid photographing it?

No problem! See number [ten](#). The more informed you keep me, the more I can pay attention for you!

[Top of the Document](#)

14. I’m torn between two photographers – how can I form my decision?

If you've weighed all aspects including price, comfort level, skill, and value... in that case, I would leave it to intuition and comfort. Ask yourself if you're torn due to external influences – if you know inside who you want and are torn because of what someone else wants, you may want to ask a close friend or family member for an objective opinion.

[Top of the Document](#)

15. Since everyone will be together, can you arrange a family photo at my wedding?

What better time! I'll gladly help gather the crowd - just let me know who you'd like included.

[Top of the Document](#)

16. How long after the wedding will I wait to receive my prints?

This depends largely on the purchased package – packages with no enlargements are about 4-5 weeks. When enlargements and parent albums are involved, you can anticipate full delivery in about 8 weeks (depending of course on how quickly I'm provided with the order). Regardless of what package you purchase, your photos will be posted on my website 4 weeks after the event.

[Top of the Document](#)

17. What tips can you offer to help the day run smoothly?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Make sure the family and friends (particularly grandparents) you'd like in your formals know to stick around after the ceremony – if they're not present for photos, you may be disappointed later. I always photograph presiding officials and grandparents first, as they're typically looking to depart rather quickly.
- Don't forget to check with the presiding official/ceremony location's representative how long you have for photos after the ceremony – an off-site location may be necessary.
- Remember to carry something to snack on. Odds are you'll be waking up pretty early, and energy is key. Granola bars and Fig Newtons can be life savers.
- Make a checklist of everything you'll need for your wedding day **and** honeymoon if you will not be stopping at home – forgetting things like undergarments and different shoes is easier than you may think!
- Contemplate a pair of slippers or flats for the reception – tired feet can put a damper on your energy.
- Consider bringing scotch tape to the reception – some people don't tape their cards to their gifts, which can make things difficult when it comes to preparing "Thank you" notes. A sharpie may also be a good idea to have on your gift table.

- Prepare your DJ! It is a great idea to provide your DJ with your desired songs on CD. At the very least, a listing of the artists and song titles. It is common that a less popular song is unavailable, and while most DJs these days can download files on the spot, it doesn't mean they will download the desired "version" of the song.
- Be vocal! I bring to every wedding a small "emergency pack" of miscellaneous items I've found are quite useful (things like scissors, shout wipes, etc.). If you're in need of something, let me know – if I don't have it, I'll certainly seek out what I'm able.
- Plan as much as you can before the day comes – the more details you have figured out, the more smoothly the day will go. Talk to a friend or relative about when they got married – what did they forget? Did they regret not ordering "this" or tending to "that"? Use your online resources – www.theknot.com is a great source of information.

[Top of the Document](#)

18. I'm concerned about my wedding being visible to anyone visiting your website – can my catalog be password protected?

I do have the ability to make batches password protected. As a side note, however, keep in mind if your event is password protected and family member(s) lose their table card(s), they will not be able to view the event.

[Top of the Document](#)

19. I've heard about problems arising between photographers and videographers – will my videographer be an issue?

Great question – you may have heard about friction in this area. For any given event at a wedding, be that tossing the bouquet or removing the garter, there are a few best vantage points for the "best shot". The only time issues arise is when one professional steps in front of the other, ruining the shot for other party. When you're dealing with two (or more) true professionals, they will work side by side making every effort to stay out of each other's way **and** obtain the best shot. The objective of a professional is to capture the moment – not be captured in the moment themselves. Ideally, every effort should be made by both parties to remain out of the shot of the other.

[Top of the Document](#)

20. Can you remove blemishes and birthmarks?

I sure can – Photoshop is a wonderful thing!

[Top of the Document](#)

21. So I have my full resolution CD – where should I have photos printed?

I highly suggest taking your print orders to a professional camera store. You'll pay a tad more, but the quality will speak for itself. In addition, generally places like Walgreens, Kmart, etc. train the same employees that stock shelves to man the photo labs. While this type of cross-training benefits scheduling conflicts and absences, it presents a situation where a specialist isn't always available. Should an issue arise with a print's color, saturation, etc., staff may not be armed with the necessary training to adjust printing settings, and may not be as willing to try to find someone who can offer the best solution. In my experience, it's simply better to leave it to professionals.

[Top of the Document](#)

22. I'm having trouble choosing the prints I'd like in my album – where should I start?

Putting together an album can be a challenging process. For starters, keep in mind your album should tell a story of your wedding day – gently flowing throughout the day and touching on your favorite moments. I've found it helps immensely to go through each series (getting ready series, formal series, cake cutting series, etc.) choosing 4-5 of your favorites, then going back to narrow your choices.

[Top of the Document](#)

23. What if I want you to stay longer than you're contracted?

No worries – overtime is available at \$100.00 per hour, and includes all photos taken during that time. As a side note, I never leave a reception until I'm dismissed. Once the contracted amount of time is completed, I'll approach the bride or groom and ask if they'd like me to stay for additional time. If and when parents of the bride/groom are available, I double check to see if there are any other desired shots before saying goodnight.

[Top of the Document](#)

24. What if your equipment malfunctions on my wedding day?

We can both hope that doesn't happen! I do travel with backups of everything I use – a backup camera body, back up flash, back up diffuser, back up memory cards, and more batteries than you can imagine!

[Top of the Document](#)

25. What if you fall ill on my wedding day?

Another very important question. First and foremost, wedding season (luckily) is somewhat separate from the cold/flu season, and thus sickness is less likely to be a factor. In 7 years I've never had a wedding I was unable to attend...however, being prepared is key. For this, I have a

network of photographers that I can and will depend on should the unlikely or unthinkable occur.

[Top of the Document](#)

26. What if my church doesn't allow flash during the ceremony?

Not a problem. The quality of equipment I work with has few issues with low lit environments.

[Top of the Document](#)

27. What if my wedding is postponed or canceled?

Please review or request a copy of my contract for the most in-depth information. In cases where cancellations are communicated less than 6 months in advance, retainers are unfortunately non-refundable. While I realize the unforeseeable can and does happen, because wedding photography is widely structured on futuristic events, once a date is owned by a contractual agreement my book of business is closed for that date. Less than 6 months notice would hold an unfavorable likelihood of my re-booking. Exceptions will be made for Army, Navy, and Military, etc. provided supporting documentation is received and found acceptable.

[Top of the Document](#)

Portraiture FAQs:

1. [What should I wear for my portraits?](#)
2. [What is a "full resolution" CD, and why do you offer one?](#)
3. [How long should a single portrait session run?](#)
4. [How long should a family portrait session run?](#)
5. [How long should an engagement portrait run?](#)
6. [What is the best time of day to do a portrait session?](#)
7. [How long on average does it take to receive my prints?](#)
8. [What if I want to combine my family with another family for a portrait shoot?](#)
9. [What weather is best for outdoor photos?](#)

Answers:

1. What should I wear for my portraits?

I've found that portraits of multiple subjects turn out best when there is a dress theme such as blue jeans and white t-shirts, or red button downs and black dress pants. Some sort of theme is a great idea, however ultimately the choice is yours!

[Portraiture FAQs](#)

2. What is a “full resolution” CD, and why do you offer one?

A full resolution CD is the digital equivalent of a negative, and necessary for quality prints – most importantly enlargements. Files on full resolution CD are files that have not been compressed or digitally “shrunk”. I provide these as a courtesy to my customers – while I retain copies of everything I shoot, I see no reason in holding originals from my clients...most professional photographers will not release files at full resolution, which I find it rather silly – after all, they’re your photos!

[Portraiture FAQs](#)

3. How long should a single portrait session run?

This depends on what types of photos are desired. Headshots typically run about an hour, modeling/fashion types usually require two to three hours given the depth and dynamic that is desired from these types of sessions. In cases where subjects are of a younger age, the time demands are usually higher as attention span (or lack thereof) can present an issue. Ultimately, the length of the session is up to you.

[Portraiture FAQs](#)

4. How long should a family portrait session run?

Depending on the amount and age of subjects, they can run anywhere from one to two hours. Little ones usually require a bit more time to get comfortable. Once they feel at ease, you have prime shooting time, but only until their attention span runs out! Again, ultimately the length of the session is up to you.

[Portraiture FAQs](#)

[Top of the Document](#)

5. How long should an engagement portrait run?

These typically run in between one to two hours. One hour usually is a bit short, and two hours is almost always just right.

With engagement portraits, I try to incorporate personalities the couple. Indians fans might change into Indians jerseys for the shoot, or something of the sort. As always, ultimately the length of the session is your choice.

Great shooting locations can also be based more on sentimental value than aesthetic – sports fanatics may want to visit their favorite team’s stadium/arena. Whatever you decide, it is important to research what other events may be held on the same date. For example, if you’d

like to visit your town center's gazebo you'll want to verify a concert wasn't there the night before. If there was another event held at the location the day prior or the day of, it's a good idea to contact the city to be sure proper cleaning crews will have time to come through before we plan on arriving for photos.

[Portraiture FAQs](#)

6. What is the best time of day to do a portrait session?

Family portraits involving children I've found are best placed where children are the most alert. After they're fully awake, but prior to naptime nearing. Whether this is 10am or 2pm, it's generally best to photograph little ones after they've eaten breakfast or lunch.

Late afternoon sessions are perfectly fine, however anything past 5pm may not offer sufficient daylight depending on the season. Indoor sessions can be any hour of the day since we aren't depending on sunlight.

[Portraiture FAQs](#)

7. How long on average does it take to receive my prints?

Typically about 4-5 weeks, depending on when I receive your proof selection. Regardless of any printing orders, your photos will be posted on my website in just 4 weeks. Once posted, your chosen proofs can be emailed to me and I'll get them on order right away.

[Portraiture FAQs](#)

8. What if I want to combine my family with another family for a portrait shoot?

Because the Primary Package is gauged both in pricing and timing for up to 5 subjects, each family will be handled as a separate package unless the total number of people is less than the maximum.

[Portraiture FAQs](#)

[Top of the Document](#)

9. What weather is best for outdoor photos?

Contrary to popular belief, overcast days are best for photos! While no one should hope for rain, some cloud cover offers the best photographic environment. When sun is unfiltered and at its brightest, colors can be washed out and eyes can appear squinted. Regardless of weather,

we can work together creatively to capture the best photos. Sometimes taking things to a more shaded area is a great idea.

[Portraiture FAQs](#)

Corporate events/Commercial Ad FAQs:

1. [I'm planning a large holiday party and would like every attendee to have their photo taken with their guest – can you set up a photo station?](#)
2. [What background options are best for couple photos at corporate events?](#)
3. [Do you have backgrounds?](#)
4. [At my corporate event I'd like people to be able to order their own photos – can you print cards to hand out with your URL?](#)
5. [My event is a fundraiser, and I'd like for any print purchases to go partly toward our cause – can you set up special pricing?](#)
6. [Can you provide examples of your corporate/commercial work?](#)
7. [I'm looking for prints to raffle off at a fundraiser - can you help?](#)

Answers:

1. I'm planning a large holiday party and would like every attendee to have their photo taken with their guest – can you set up a photo station?

Certainly! I would want to arrive a bit early to get set up, so it may be a good idea to get me connected with the venue's representative.

[Corporate/Commercial FAQs](#)

2. What background options are best for couple photos at corporate events?

I don't think there is necessarily a "best" choice for background – sometimes it's nice to have some kind of greenery, but for the most part a neutral wall will do just fine. I'm particularly a fan of columns.

[Corporate/Commercial FAQs](#)

3. Do you have backgrounds?

Yes – I offer a choice of black and tan.

[Corporate/Commercial FAQs](#)

[Top of the Document](#)

4. At my corporate event I'd like people to be able to order their own photos – can you print cards to hand out with your URL?

Yes - URL cards are available at no charge. Simply provide me with a rough estimate of how many attendees you're anticipating, and I'll have them printed and cut for the event.

[Corporate/Commercial FAQs](#)

5. My event is a fundraiser, and I'd like for any print purchases to go partly toward our cause – can you set up special pricing?

Yes - Prices can be increased as needed to account for any fundraising needs.

[Corporate/Commercial FAQs](#)

6. Can you provide examples of your corporate/commercial work?

Absolutely! I've shot food ads for Romeo's Pizza, Romeo's Italian Kitchen, Shinto Japanese Steakhouse Sushi Bar & Lounge (as well as their anniversary party) and environmental testing chambers for Singleton Corporation. Feel free to request a viewing of my content.

[Corporate/Commercial FAQs](#)

7. I'm looking for prints to raffle off at a fundraiser – can you help?

Definitely. I have many beautiful photos from all over the East Coast. A few favorites are from a trip to Manhattan – these have both been raffled off as prizes in the past. One is an abstract photo of the ceiling of the Guggenheim Art Museum, and the other is a photo of blooming trees in Central Park. The prints are black and white, 11 x 17 in size, matted, and framed. Feel free to ask about reviewing and pricing.

[Corporate/Commercial FAQs](#)

[Top of the Document](#)