

SAMPLE WEDDING DAY TIMELINE

With so many people involved on your big day, it is best to keep everyone organized. We recommend having a wedding day timeline ready for all attendants, friends, and family members helping with your wedding to keep your day on track. By distributing and following the timeline, you will have many helpers aware of what is coming next, and checking the clock for you. Each helper will know when to be where. First start planning your timeline by scheduling the most important events of your day, like the ceremony and reception start time. Then fill in the details as you plan your wedding. Add all information your helpers need to know. Allow extra time for travel, and schedule gaps for the unexpected. You may have a wedding coordinator that will oversee this timeline, but if not, ask a trusted friend to keep an eye on the clock. You may also entrust this friend with the final payments to vendors, so you can savor each moment of your day!

EXAMPLE TIMELINE*

8:00am Arrive for hair and makeup appointments. Wear a button down shirt for ease of changing into gowns. Drive separately as appointments are staggered. Here is the hair schedule...

10:00am Brides and attendants start getting ready at the ceremony site. Remember your dress, shoes, nylons, and jewelry. Photographer arrives for “getting ready” photos.

10:15am Flowers delivered to church.

11:00am Groomsmen arrive with tuxedos, and shoes.

11:45am All flowers are in place: boutonnieres and bouquets.

12:00pm Photos begin in the sanctuary with “first look” shots of the couple. Following photos of the couple will be all wedding party photos.

12:45pm All family to be included in the photos have arrived, and are putting on their flowers (if applicable).

1:00pm Family photos at location.

1:30pm Guest book attendants and ushers in place.

1:40pm Sanctuary is cleared and ceremony music begins.

1:50pm Grandparents and Godparents are seated by the groom. Next, the parents of the couple.

1:55pm Wedding party gathers in the back of the church in order, followed by the bride with her father.

2:00pm Ceremony begins. (You can discuss with the officiant when planning the ceremony the length to allow here.)

2:30pm Limousine arrives at church.

2:45pm Cake is delivered, photo booth and DJ set up at the reception venue.

3:00pm Ceremony ends, newlyweds dismiss guests. (Or ushers dismiss guests and there will be a receiving line as guests leave church.) Wedding party leaves via limousine with photographer to shoot photos at outdoor location.

3:30pm Cocktails and appetizers are served at the reception venue.

4:30pm Wedding party arrives, after being announced by DJ.

4:45pm Couple cuts the cake.

5:00pm Welcome and blessing of the meal. Dinner is served. Rest of cake is cut for guests.

6:00pm Dinner concludes, serve the cake, and toast while you enjoy.

6:30pm Photo booth opens.

7:00pm Dancing and fun begins.

10:00pm Pizza is served for a late night snack.

11:00pm Photo booth closes to allow time for final printing of photos and to complete album for the couple.

12:00pm Reception ends. Couple leaves in getaway car. Attendants, or specific helpers clean up and pack decorations and gifts. (Or the venue may take care of all clean-up.) Make sure all tuxedos are given to best man or appointed person for return in the morning.

* Remember this is just an example, it's your day, your way.