

SAMPLE TIMELINE FOR WEDDINGS INCORPORATING A “FIRST LOOK”



I should note first off that everyone’s timeline will be different based on the circumstances of their day. Portrait times take longer for larger bridal parties/families/guests. If there is travel involved, make sure to take note of how long it will get from A to B, and add 5-10 minutes of padding on top of that to account for unexpected traffic, people running behind, etc. Also keep in mind this is just purely an example to study or use as a jumping off point, but times can be adjusted accordingly depending on your preferences.

Example Date & Location -

Date: August 19th

Location: Aspen, CO

Do you have an anchored time for your ceremony (ie: the venue only has x time available)? If so, adjust your timeline accordingly based on the ceremony start time.

If your ceremony time is up to you and flexible, Google **“Your date Sunset time in Your Location”**. For this example, sunset time in Aspen on August 19th is predicted to be at 7:57pm.

Generally 8pm is getting a little late to start dinner, so consider arranging it so that your guests are in some phase of eating dinner at this time, and sneak away for 15 minutes or so to get sunset photos with your photographer.

Here would be my suggestion for a timeline for this particular day/situation:

(I find it easier to work backwards)

8:00: Finish sunset portraits. Return to reception. Timeline then determined by DJ and/or planner.

7:40: Sneak away for sunset portraits. (20 min.)

7:00: Enter reception / begin dinner service.

6:30: Finish family portraits. Enjoy the rest of cocktail hour with friends & family. I will be getting detail shots of the table settings before everyone sits down and destroys the tables. ;)

6:10: Begin family portraits. **Portrait times for family can fluctuate depending on the size of your family/how many individual break-downs you'd like. I find 20 minutes to be average.* (20 min.)

6:00: End ceremony. **This example does not include time for a receiving line, but make sure to add in 15-20 minutes if you are planning on incorporating this into your day. Guests love to talk to the bride & groom and they usually end up taking longer than couples may predict.*

5:30: Begin ceremony (30 min.)

5:00: Finish bride & groom portraits. **Make sure to be done at least 30 minutes before the ceremony in order to relax, refresh, and be out of the view of guests.*

4:15: Finish bridal party portraits. Begin bride & groom only portraits. (30 - 45 min.)

3:45: Begin bridal party portraits. (30 min.)

3:40: Finish "first look". 5 minute transition time to gather bridal party.

3:25: First look. (15 min.)

2:55: Be dressed and ready for portraits. I'd give this 30 minutes of padding between when you **plan** on being ready, and when you start portraits. This is because the getting ready process almost always runs late. (30 min. To get into dress, put on shoes/jewelry/etc.)

2:25 Hair & make-up finished.

TBD- Start hair & make-up. **This totally depends on how many bridesmaids there are.*

**I almost always recommend waiting until after the ceremony to do family portraits, as at that point everyone is already in the same place. Trying to collect all of your family members beforehand often turns into an exercise in patience (people don't always arrive at the same time and/or might not want to be ready earlier than they need to be).*

As this is just a sample, please don't hesitate to reach out and ask me about your specific timeline! I'm here to help in any way I can, and work with 99% of my couples on crafting or affirming their itinerary.