



## Family portrait list preparation

### *INSTRUCTIONS*

These recommendations are built on 14 years of experience and 300+ weddings! Family photos can get stressful fast, but a solid list and a realistic timeline make them smooth and painless.

**You don't have to use this document as a worksheet.** We'll ask you to either paste your list into your questionnaire (sent about two months before the wedding) or email it as an attachment, whichever is easiest.

### *THE TWO-MINUTE RULE*

Plan on **two minutes per photo combination**.

Count your combinations and multiply by 2 to estimate the time we need.

#### **Immediate family** (*before the ceremony*):

- Ideal time: **30 minutes**
- Max: **15 combinations**

#### **Extended family** (*after the ceremony*):

- Max: **5 combinations**
- Tell everyone included to **stay at the ceremony site after the ceremony** until we're done.

#### **Big groups** (*10 or more people*):

- If one photo includes a huge group, it takes longer.
- Plan **about 4 minutes per big group of 10+ people**.

### *TIMING*

Family photos go well when everyone knows **when and where to be**.

- Tell family members **at least one month** in advance where to meet and when.
- Send a reminder **1-2 weeks out**, and tell them again at the rehearsal dinner.
- If someone is late, we can't guarantee they'll make it into photos. The day moves quickly and delays ripple into everything else.



### *WHY IT TAKES TIME (EVEN IF THE ACTUAL PHOTO IS FAST)*

The two minutes includes:

- gathering people and making sure no one is missing
- putting down purses, sunglasses, jackets
- fixing pockets, hair, ties, dress details
- getting everyone looking at the camera (kids take longer)
- shooting multiple frames so no one is blinking
- resetting for the next group

### *PHOTO FATIGUE IS REAL*

The reason we limit family photo time is because there is a VERY REAL phenomenon called “photo fatigue.” I absolutely want to make every effort to capture the photos that are of highest priority to you. But **you will get tired of taking formal portraits** if there are too many of them on the list.

People get tired, expressions go flat, and it starts to feel like a chore. That’s why I recommend **15 immediate family groups** and **5 extended family groups**. If you want more time with extended family, we can grab relaxed photos during cocktail hour and the reception, too.

### *ADDITIONAL TIPS*

- Family photo time does **not** include wedding party photos. That’s separate.
- If siblings have partners or kids, include **names** on your list.
- If there are sensitive dynamics (divorces, tension), tell me who shouldn’t be placed together.

### *SPECIAL NOTE*

Every family photo combination we suggest is simply our *recommendation* and offered as a starting point to work from! You can make any changes to the suggested list, we just ask that you keep the number of combinations to our suggestions (up to 15 for immediate family pre-ceremony, and up to 5 combinations for extended family post-ceremony).



## Family portrait list **TEMPLATE**

1. Partner 1 (bride) with parents (*together + individually*): \_\_\_\_\_  
*Parents' names*

2. Partner 2 (bride) with parents (*together + individually*): \_\_\_\_\_  
*Parents' names*

- 3. Couple with partner 1 (bride)'s parents
- 4. Couple with partner 2 (groom)'s parents
- 5. Couple with all parents

6. Partner 1 (bride) with siblings: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Siblings' names*

7. Partner 2 (groom) with siblings: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Siblings' names*

- 8. Partner 1 (bride) with immediate family (*parents + siblings*)
- 9. Partner 2 (groom) with immediate family (*parents + siblings*)

10. Couple with bride's immediate family: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Names of siblings' partners or nieces/nephews to include, if applicable*

11. Couple with groom's immediate family: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Names of siblings' partners or nieces/nephews to include, if applicable*

12. Couple with both immediate families

13. Partner 1 (bride) with grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Grandparents' names*

14. Partner 2 (groom) with grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Grandparents' names*

15. Couple with all grandparents



## Family portrait list **SUBSTITUTIONS**

*Use this as a guide for multiple sets of parents, siblings-in-law, or other immediate family iterations you'd prefer to swap from our recommended list on the previous page.*

- Partner 1 (bride) with each parent individually: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Parents' names*
- Partner 2 (groom) with each parent individually: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Parents' names*
- Couple with each set of parents (*ex: bride's mom + stepdad, or groom's dad + stepmom, etc.*)

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*Parent combination 1*

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*Parent combination 2*

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*Parent combination 3*

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*Parent combination 4*

- Partner 1 (bride) with step-siblings: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Step-sibling names*
- Partner 2 (groom) with step-siblings: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Step-sibling names*
- Additional ALTERNATE combination:

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*Family member first names*

- Additional ALTERNATE combination:

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*Family member first names*



## Post-ceremony extended family list

*Remember that groups with more than 10 people require additional time.*

1. Couple with partner 1 (bride)'s maternal side of the family:

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*First names OR provide family last name(s), if group is too large to call individual names*

2. Couple with partner 1 (bride)'s paternal side of the family

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*First names OR provide family last name(s), if group is too large to call individual names*

3. Couple with partner 2 (groom)'s maternal side of the family

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*First names OR provide family last name(s), if group is too large to call individual names*

4. Couple with partner 2 (groom)'s paternal side of the family

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*First names OR provide family last name(s), if group is too large to call individual names*

5. Couple or individual partner with special group of relatives\*:

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*First names*

*\*By "special group of relatives," we mean if you have an aunt you're particularly close to, or a group of cousins you grew up with and want a special photo with them, etc.*

*Please feel free to reach out to [emily@annadelores.com](mailto:emily@annadelores.com) if you have any questions or need any assistance with preparing your family photo shot list!*