



M E E T

## D A N I E L L E   H A R R I S

EDUCATOR FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

We've spent years perfecting our craft and serving happy couples all over the world. Photographing someones most significant milestones can be a daunting task. We love helping other creatives reach their dream of becoming full time wedding photographers and preparing them with the knowledge they need to photograph someones special day.

## F R O M   O U R   F A M I L Y   T O   Y O U R S

*We hope this information helps you get one step  
closer to your photography goals and enriches  
your business  
xoxo - Danielle*



# GETTING STARTED

Family formal without proper preparation can be a hectic and crazy part of the day... Missing family members, no organization, & people trying to figure out the next set of people... It can be a mad house and will reflect on you as a photographer. We like our family formal to be very organized so we've put together a list of tips to help make them quick and painless. Having an organized and seamless approach to family formal makes for happy clients, family members and referrals.



## Pro Tip:

1. Send out your family formal questionnaire three months prior to the wedding. You are close enough to the date for the groupings to be pretty much set but before all the other vendors are sending out final prep emails. The final 30 days prior to the wedding is a very overwhelming time and you don't want to add to that stress.



## ORGANIZATION

# Prepare a List

Our brides I receive an online questionnaire with the traditional family groupings three months prior to their wedding. We've listed our standard family groupings below along with the email template we send out to brides prior to the wedding.

1. Bride, Groom, Parents of the Bride
2. Bride, Groom, Parents of the Bride and Siblings
3. Bride, Mother of the Bride
4. Bride, Father of the Bride
5. Father of the Bride, Mother of the Bride
6. Bride, Groom, Parents of the Bride and Grandparents
7. Photo of Grandparents alone together
8. Bride, Groom, Parents of Groom
9. Bride, Groom, Parents of Groom, Grooms Siblings
10. Groom, Mother of the Groom
11. Groom, Father of the Groom
12. Bride, Groom, Grandparents
13. Just Grandparents







## Email Template

Hello Bride to Be!

We are so excited for your upcoming wedding! We pride ourselves on our organized and smooth approach to family formals. I've attached a form for you to complete with the traditional already groupings done for you. Simply enter the family members name in the spot allotted. Anything over our traditional groupings will require additional time. (3 minutes per added photo) Please contact me if you intend to do anything other than immediate family and need to adjust the timeline. Please ensure family members know photos will start promptly after the ceremony and to meet \_\_\_\_\_. We will work quickly and efficiently to get everyone to cocktail hour as soon as possible. Let me know if you have any questions! Thank you!



## ALTERNATE LIST

# Step Parent List

Our brides I receive an online questionnaire with the traditional family groupings three months prior to their wedding. We've listed our standard family groupings below along with the email template we send out to brides prior to the wedding.

1. Bride, Groom, Mother of the Bride -- Step Father
2. Bride, Groom, Mother of the Bride and Siblings
3. Bride, Mother of the Bride
4. Bride, Father of the Bride
5. Bride, Groom, Father of the Bride -- Step Mother
6. Bride, Groom, Father of the Bride -- Siblings
7. Bride, Groom, Parents of the Bride and Grandparents
8. Photo of Grandparents alone together
9. Bride, Groom, Parents of Groom
10. Bride, Groom, Parents of Groom, Grooms Siblings
11. Groom, Mother of the Groom
12. Groom, Father of the Groom
13. Bride, Groom, Grandparents
14. Just Grandparents





# Tips & Tricks



1

## BE COMMUNICATIVE

Have your client communicate with thier family members about family formals BEFORE the wedding day! They should send a dedicated email explaing that family members should not go to cockatil hour and to report to the photo locaion immediatly follwoing the ceremony. This will keep you from having to hunt people down during portratris.

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2

## IMMEDIATE FAMILY ONLY

If the couple doesn't do a first look, Our family formals are immediate family only. (Parents, Siblings, Grandparents) It keeps things moving quickly and allows for the most time to get those romantic bride and groom portraits. We will have plenty of time at the reception if they would like to get some large photos with Aunts or Cousins.

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3

## HAVE A “WRANGLER”

Have your client assign a wrangler. The bride & groom shouldn't be running around trying to find missing family members. This will cut into precious photo time and adds stress. In theory, this person should know both sides of the family quite well and not be an immediate family member. This is usually a great job for an usher or bridal party member.

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# Bride Side Examples



1

## BRIDES PARENTS

I TYPICALLY PUT ONE ON EACH SIDE, BUT YOU CAN  
KEEP PARENTS TOGETHER IF YOU PREFER

2

## PARENTS & SIBLINGS

PARENTS NOW TOGETHER ON THE BRIDES  
SIDE, SIBLINGS ON THE GROOMS SIDE.



3

## SOLO SHOT WITH MOM







4

### SOLO SHOT WITH DAD

5

### WAIT FOR CANDIDS

AFTER THE FORMAL SHOT THEY WILL  
SOMETIMES HUG OR KISS SO BE SURE TO BE  
READY FOR THAT MOMENT



6

### PARENT SHOT

THIS SHOT IS SO IMPORANT. YOU NEED  
A FORMAL PHOTO OF JUST THE PARENTS  
TOGETHER.





# Groom Side Examples



1

**GROOM'S PARENTS**

2

**PARENTS & SIBLINGS**

**PARENTS NOW TOGETHER ON THE GROOMS SIDE,  
SIBLINGS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE.**



3

**SOLO SHOT WITH MOM**





1

**GROOM SHOT WITH DAD**

2

**DON'T FORGET CADNIDS**



3

**PARENTS TOGETHER**





# Posing Tips



1

## MAKE A STRAIGHT LINE

Keep Everyone on the same focal plane by having them form a straight line. People will naturally make a “U” shape. I tell everyone to line up their toes and then I turn them in towards the bride and groom.

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2

## BUILD CONNECTIONS

Building connections between the family members makes the photo more personal and relaxed. I have the groom help hold the flowers of the bride. If they are awkward heights, I will have him put his hand in his pocket. Bridesmaids should hold their flowers, mothers touch the arm of the bride or groom. and men on the ends either put their hand in their pocket or touching their spouse.

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3

## PARENT SHOT

I have the parents angle in towards each other with their inside arm around the waist. The man should put his hand in his pocket and I have the woman put her hand on his chest or relaxed down at her side.

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