

G I L D E D H E A R T F I L M S

Michigan Wedding Videography

The Michigan Bride's Complete Wedding Videography Guide

Everything you need to know before, during, and after booking

gildedheartfilms.com

A Note From Gilded Heart Films

Congratulations. You're engaged, and you're planning a wedding, which means you're about to make a lot of decisions you've probably never thought about before. Venues. Caterers. Florists. Photographers. Timelines. And somewhere in the middle of all of that: videography.

This guide was written for you. Not to sell you something, but to genuinely prepare you, to answer the questions most couples don't know to ask until after they've already signed a contract, and to give you the tools to evaluate any videographer with clarity and confidence.

At Gilded Heart Films, we believe your wedding film should feel like your wedding, not a performance, not a production, not something manufactured. It should feel like the day you actually had: the people, the voices, the atmosphere, the moments nobody planned.

Our philosophy is simple. Let the day happen. Document it honestly. Deliver something that lasts.

Whether or not you book us, we hope this guide helps you find exactly the right person to preserve your wedding day, and helps you walk into your wedding knowing it's in good hands.

*With warmth,
Gilded Heart Films*

“Let the day happen.”

Table of Contents

01 Why Wedding Video Matters	4
02 Understanding Your Options: Styles & Approaches	5
03 The Power of Audio	7
04 What to Look For in a Videographer	8
05 Questions to Ask Before You Book	9
06 Understanding Deliverables	11
07 What's Included With Gilded Heart Films	12
08 Why We Include RAW Footage	13
09 Planning Your Timeline for a Great Film	14
10 The Day-Of: What to Expect From Us	15
11 Working With Your Full Vendor Team	16
12 After the Wedding: Delivery & Your Gallery	17

13	Frequently Asked Questions	18
14	Michigan Venues & Coverage Areas	19
15	How to Reach Us	20

01 · Why Wedding Video Matters

Most couples who book wedding videography will tell you the same thing afterward: they had no idea how much it would mean.

Photography is the dominant medium couples think about first, and for good reason. Photographs are beautiful, shareable, and hang on your walls. But video does something photographs simply cannot. It lets people exist again.

"A photograph freezes a moment. A wedding film lets you live inside it again."

What You'll Actually Watch

Years from now, here's what tends to matter most to couples who have their wedding filmed:

- ◆ **Vows spoken in real voices.** Not a reading of them. The sound of the person you love, in that moment, saying those words.
- ◆ **Speeches and toasts.** Your best man's nervous delivery. Your mother-in-law's story you hadn't heard before. A grandparent's words you'll treasure forever.
- ◆ **People who may no longer be with you.** This is the one couples rarely think about in the planning stage, and it matters most in the years that follow.
- ◆ **The atmosphere of the day.** The music. The laughter. The room full of your people. The way it all felt.
- ◆ **Moments you missed.** You were busy getting married. Your film shows you what was happening in the room while you were walking down the aisle.

The Regret Gap

Among couples who chose not to hire a videographer, regret is one of the most commonly reported feelings post-wedding. The reason is consistent: in the moment, video feels optional. Years later, it feels irreplaceable.

Photography preserves the look of a day. Videography preserves the feeling of it.

"We watched our film on our first anniversary and cried the entire way through. We didn't realize how much we'd missed."

02 · Understanding Your Options

The wedding videography industry uses a lot of terms that can be confusing, and some that are used inconsistently. Here's a clear breakdown of the most important distinctions to understand before you start comparing companies.

Cinematic vs. Documentary

This is the most common distinction couples ask about, and the most misunderstood. Both styles can produce beautiful, polished, professional films. The difference is in what drives the story.

Cinematic-Led	Documentary-Led
Visuals lead the story, crafted through directed shots and constructed sequences.	Moments lead the story, shaped around what actually happened as it unfolded.
Often asks: How do we create a moment?	Often asks: How do we preserve what already happened?
May involve direction, posing, and staged sequences throughout the day.	Prioritizes observation. The camera follows the day rather than shaping it.
High visual impact. May feel more produced.	High emotional authenticity. Feels personal and genuine.

At Gilded Heart Films, our approach is documentary-led. We believe weddings already contain enough genuine emotion, the nervous breath before the ceremony, parents seeing their child for

the first time, unexpected reactions, quiet unplanned conversations. These moments don't need direction. They simply need someone paying attention.

Editing Styles

Beyond the approach to filming, videographers also differ in how they edit their footage. Some common styles:

- ◆ **Highlight Film:** A carefully edited 5–8 minute film that captures the emotional arc of your day. Set to music. Meant to be shared and rewatched.
- ◆ **Full Ceremony Edit:** Your complete ceremony from beginning to end, uncut. Invaluable for reliving vows and sharing with those who couldn't attend.
- ◆ **Feature Film / Long-Form Edit:** A 20–45 minute extended film that gives more breathing room to the story of the day.
- ◆ **Speech Edit:** A dedicated compilation of toasts and speeches, often used to share with family.
- ◆ **Teaser / Social Edit:** A short 60–90 second cut optimized for sharing on social media shortly after the wedding.

Single vs. Two-Camera Coverage

Whether a videographer works alone or with a second shooter significantly affects what your final film can include. With a single camera, the videographer makes editorial choices in real time, focusing on the most important moments. With two cameras, coverage is expanded: one can capture the wide view while the other gets close-up detail, reaction shots, or simultaneous events.

Neither is inherently better, it depends on the size of your wedding and what matters most to you. A smaller intimate wedding may be perfectly served by one skilled videographer. A larger event with multiple simultaneous moments often benefits from a second shooter.

Understanding Drone Coverage

Aerial footage can add a striking sense of scale and place to a wedding film. A sweeping view of your venue, the surrounding landscape, or the arrival of a wedding party can be beautiful when used intentionally.

However, drone coverage is subject to real-world variables: FAA regulations, venue permissions, wind and weather, and proximity to restricted airspace. A good videographer will

be transparent about when drone coverage is and isn't possible, rather than promising it unconditionally.

At Gilded Heart Films, drone coverage is included in every package, subject to venue permissions, weather, and applicable regulations. We will always communicate clearly about whether drone coverage will be possible at your venue.

03 · The Power of Audio

Most couples begin their search for a wedding videographer by looking at footage, which makes sense. Video is a visual medium. But here's something interesting that tends to happen years later.

It's the audio they remember most.

"Hearing someone you love speak again years later can be priceless."

The nervous catch in a voice during vows. The way a best man's speech made the room laugh. A grandmother's quiet comment during cocktail hour that no one thought to remember. These moments, captured in sound, can feel more powerful than any visual.

How Audio Is Captured

Professional wedding videographers use several methods to capture clean audio:

- ◆ **Wireless Lapel Microphones:** Small clip-on mics worn by the officiant or groom, capturing vows and ceremony audio at close range regardless of crowd noise or ambient sound.
- ◆ **Recorder on the Officiant or DJ:** A dedicated audio recorder placed near the sound source captures the primary ceremony feed.
- ◆ **Secondary Ambient Recording:** Cameras record room-level audio to capture the natural atmosphere of the space.

- ◆ **Speech and Toast Capture:** A mic placed on or near the speaker, or a feed from the DJ's board, captures reception toasts clearly.

Audio quality varies significantly between videographers. Before booking, ask specifically how they handle audio capture for the ceremony and reception. Poor audio is one of the most common complaints in wedding films, and one of the most preventable.

Questions to Ask About Audio

- ◆ Do you use a wireless lapel mic for the ceremony? Who wears it?
- ◆ Do you take a feed from the DJ or AV system for speeches?
- ◆ How do you handle outdoor ceremonies where wind is a factor?
- ◆ What happens if the primary audio source fails?

At Gilded Heart Films, audio capture is a priority on every wedding. We use wireless lapel microphones for ceremony coverage and coordinate directly with your DJ or sound team for reception speeches. We also maintain backup recording options in case of equipment issues.

04 · What to Look For in a Videographer

Beyond price, style, and package contents, there are subtler qualities that separate a good wedding videographer from a great one. Here's what to look for as you evaluate your options.

Their Work Over Time

Request films from different seasons and venue types, not just the most recent highlight reel posted online. Does the emotional authenticity hold consistent? Does the quality vary significantly between weddings, or does it feel consistent? Their best work is easy to show. What you want to see is their average.

Communication Style

How a videographer communicates with you during the booking process is often a preview of how they'll communicate on your wedding day. Slow responses, vague answers, or evasiveness

about pricing should be noted. Transparency, warmth, and clarity are signs of a professional who takes their clients seriously.

Experience With Your Type of Wedding

A videographer who specializes in intimate backyard weddings may not have the same instincts as someone experienced with large ballroom events, and vice versa. Ask about their experience with venues or formats similar to yours.

How They Handle Pressure

Weddings run late. Lighting changes. Things go sideways. Ask what happens when the timeline shifts, or when they're dealing with a difficult lighting situation. Their answer will tell you a lot about their experience and temperament.

Their Relationship With Other Vendors

A videographer who works well with photographers, planners, and coordinators makes the entire day run more smoothly. Ask whether they've worked at your venue before, and how they typically coordinate with the photography team.

Red Flags to Watch For

- ◆ **Vague deliverables:** If a contract doesn't clearly specify what films are included, assume nothing is guaranteed.
- ◆ **No backup plan:** Equipment fails. Ask what happens if something goes wrong on the day of.
- ◆ **Reluctance to share contracts:** A professional will have a clear, written contract. Hesitation is a warning sign.
- ◆ **Outsourcing editing without disclosure:** Some videographers outsource editing overseas. This isn't inherently bad, but you should know.
- ◆ **Guaranteed drone coverage:** No videographer can guarantee drone coverage, it depends on weather, regulations, and permissions.
- ◆ **Making the day about them:** Many videographers and photographers unfortunately care more about their end product than your wishes. Some are part-timers, hobbyists, or highly creative types who may be using your day to impress their peers with art you never asked for. The day should be yours, not theirs. Look for someone who listens more than they pitch, and who talks about your wedding rather than their portfolio.

04b · The Three Tiers of Wedding Video Companies

Not all wedding videography companies are built the same. Before you start comparing prices and packages, it helps to understand the three general categories most videographers fall into. Each has genuine strengths and real tradeoffs.

Type	Strengths	Tradeoffs
Creative Solopreneur	Often highly artistic and personally invested. You work directly with the person holding the camera. Unique aesthetic, deep creative passion.	Single point of failure. If they get sick, have an emergency, or burn out, your wedding coverage is at risk. Turnaround can be slow, often 4 to 6 months or longer. Scheduling is limited to one wedding at a time.
Local Studio	Reliable team structure with vetted videographers, backup coverage, and internal systems. Consistent quality across weddings. Faster turnaround due to hired editors. Can serve multiple weddings reliably.	You may not meet the specific videographer until the day of. Less of a single-artist feel. Some couples prefer the intimacy of a solo creative.
National Booking Agency	High brand recognition, polished marketing, easy online booking. Wide availability across markets.	Your wedding is assigned to a local contractor you've never vetted. Quality varies dramatically by market and individual. The agency takes a significant cut, so your actual videographer may be paid very little. Customer service is often handled by people who were never at your wedding.

Which Type Is Right for You?

There is no universally correct answer. A solo creative who is deeply aligned with your vision and has a track record of reliability can be a wonderful choice. The question to ask is whether their structure protects you if something goes wrong, and whether their timeline expectations match yours.

Local studios tend to offer the strongest balance of creative quality, reliability, and accountability. You get a team with backup systems, consistent processes, and people who are invested in the outcome because their reputation depends on it.

National booking agencies tend to prioritize volume. The marketing is polished, but the experience on the ground often reflects the economics: your videographer may be a first-year contractor who was assigned your date.

At Gilded Heart Films, we operate as a small local studio. We have a dedicated team of videographers we've worked with extensively, backup coverage systems, and internal editing infrastructure that lets us deliver faster and more reliably than most solo creatives, without the impersonal volume of a national agency.

05 · Questions to Ask Before You Book

Two videographers with similar pricing and aesthetic can offer completely different experiences. Here are the questions that reveal those differences, organized by category.

About Deliverables

1. What films are included: highlight only, full ceremony, or both?
2. Are speeches, getting-ready, or reception footage included, or are those add-ons?
3. Is RAW footage available, and is it included or priced separately?
4. Will I receive a teaser or social edit?
5. What format and resolution will final films be delivered in?
6. How long will my films be delivered through your gallery or delivery platform?

About the Experience

7. How many hours of coverage are included?
8. Is travel within Michigan covered, or are there travel fees?
9. Will you personally be my videographer on the day?
10. Will a second shooter be present?
11. What is your approach, observational, directed, or a mix?
12. How do you handle audio for vows and speeches?
13. Have you filmed at my venue before?

About Process & Protection

14. What is your turnaround time for the final film?
15. How do you back up footage after a wedding?
16. What happens if you have an emergency and cannot attend?
17. What is your cancellation and refund policy?
18. Do you carry liability insurance?
19. What does your contract include?

About Style & Philosophy

20. Can I see full ceremony films, not just highlight reels?
21. Can I see work from a wedding similar in size and style to mine?
22. How involved will you be in directing moments throughout the day?
23. How do you handle low-light situations (indoor ceremonies, evening receptions)?
24. How do you work with photographers to avoid conflicts?

Most couples don't realize they should be asking many of these questions until after they've signed a contract. Asking them upfront prevents surprises, and helps you compare videographers on what actually matters.

06 · Understanding Deliverables

One of the most common sources of disappointment after booking a wedding videographer is discovering that something you assumed was included isn't. Here's a breakdown of what the industry considers standard, and what's often an add-on.

Deliverable	Often Included	Often an Add-On
Highlight Film (5–8 min)	✓ Usually included	
Full Ceremony Film	Sometimes	Often extra
Getting-Ready Footage	Rarely	Often extra
Speech / Toast Edit	Rarely	Often extra
Social / Teaser Edit	Sometimes	Often extra

RAW Footage	Rarely	Often extra
Drone Coverage	Sometimes	Often extra
Travel (Michigan-wide)	Rarely	Usually extra

This table reflects general industry norms, every videographer structures their packages differently. The key takeaway: don't assume anything is included that isn't explicitly listed in a contract.

Resolution & Format

Ask what resolution your films will be delivered in. The current standard is 4K. If a company delivers in 1080p, that's still usable, but 4K gives you more flexibility for future formats, larger screens, and longevity.

Also ask how the films are delivered: online gallery, USB drive, cloud download link. Ask how long the delivery platform remains accessible. Some galleries expire after a year. Others are permanent.

Turnaround Times

Wedding film editing is time-intensive. The industry average turnaround for solo creatives and hobbyists is 4 to 6 months, and in some cases longer. This is partly workload and partly the nature of a one-person operation without dedicated editing support. Be cautious of videographers who promise unrealistically short timelines, but equally wary of those whose normal timeline means you receive your film when the day already feels distant.

At Gilded Heart Films, we deliver within 1 to 2 months of your wedding date, and often within a single month. This is possible because we have hired editors and strong internal systems rather than relying on one person to do everything. We believe couples should relive their wedding while it is still fresh.

07 · What's Included With Gilded Heart Films

We intentionally keep our package straightforward, because wedding planning already has enough complexity. Here's what every couple receives:

What You Receive	Details
5–7 Minute Highlight Film	A carefully edited film preserving the atmosphere and emotional story of your day, set to music.
Full Ceremony Film	Complete ceremony coverage from beginning to end, uncut and unedited. Every vow. Every word.
4K RAW Footage	Your complete unedited footage archive, delivered at no additional charge. Yours to keep forever.
Drone Coverage	Aerial coverage when venue permissions, weather, and FAA regulations allow.
Eight Hours of Coverage	Coverage designed to comfortably support most Michigan wedding timelines.
Michigan-Wide Travel	Travel throughout Michigan included at no additional cost to you.
Premium Gallery Delivery	Final films delivered through a private, beautifully presented online gallery.
1–2 Month Delivery	We believe couples should relive their wedding while memories are still fresh.

No Hidden Add-Ons

Everything listed above is included, not as a starting point with upgrades, but as the complete package. We built it this way because we wanted couples to know exactly what they're getting from the first conversation.

If you have a specific request, a longer feature film, a speech-only edit, additional hours of coverage, we're always happy to discuss what makes sense for your day.

"We wanted couples to walk into their wedding day knowing everything was covered."

08 · Why We Include RAW Footage

RAW footage is one of the most commonly requested add-ons in the industry, and one of the most commonly charged for separately. We include it with every package. Here's why.

What RAW Footage Is

RAW footage is everything your videographer captures on the day of your wedding, before any editing takes place. It's the unprocessed archive: every take, every angle, every conversation that was recorded, whether or not it made it into the final film.

The edited highlight film is the curated, intentional story of your day. The RAW footage is the archive. It contains extra conversations, background interactions, quiet moments, and footage that may never appear in the finished film, but that could matter enormously to you someday.

Why It Matters

- ◆ A child laughing during cocktail hour who grew up and moved away.
- ◆ A grandparent dancing at the reception who passed away the following year.
- ◆ An unguarded conversation between your parents captured on a second camera.
- ◆ The chaos of getting ready, the laughter, the nerves, the real moments.
- ◆ Your own reaction walking into the ceremony space before anyone was watching.

Some couples never revisit their RAW footage. Others say it's among the most meaningful things they own. We would rather you have it and not need it than wish you had it years later.

How It's Delivered

RAW footage is delivered digitally via Dropbox. We do not send physical media. Given the file sizes involved, often several hundred gigabytes for a full wedding, we'll provide a shared Dropbox link where you can download everything at your own pace. We recommend downloading your footage promptly and storing it in at least two locations of your own, such as an external hard drive and a cloud backup service. The more redundancy you build in, the better protected those memories are long term.

"Your wedding only happens once. We'd rather you have everything."

09 · Planning Your Timeline for a Great Film

One of the most common misconceptions couples have is that a better wedding film comes from doing more: more directed moments, more posed sequences, more carefully planned shots. In our experience, the opposite is usually true.

"The best films usually come from space."

Space in the timeline. Space to breathe. Space for conversations to happen naturally and for the day to unfold the way it was always going to. When timelines become overpacked, couples can unintentionally spend their entire wedding moving from task to task, rather than actually experiencing it.

Sample Wedding Day Timeline

Every wedding is different, but here's a general framework for a day with eight hours of coverage:

Time	Coverage
1:00 PM	Getting-ready coverage begins, bridal suite, groomsmen prep, details
2:30 PM	First look or pre-ceremony portraits (if applicable)
3:30 PM	Ceremony begins, full ceremony coverage
4:30 PM	Ceremony ends, family formals, wedding party portraits
5:30 PM	Cocktail hour, guest coverage, ambient moments
6:30 PM	Reception begins, grand entrance, first dance, parent dances
7:30 PM	Toasts and speeches, dedicated audio and close coverage
8:00 PM	Dinner, natural coverage, table conversations
9:00 PM	Open dancing, candid moments, guest coverage
9:00 PM	Coverage concludes (8 hours)

Simple Things That Make a Real Difference

- ◆ **Build extra transition time.** The gaps between moments are often where the best things happen. Ten unscheduled minutes can produce more natural footage than an hour of directed shots.
- ◆ **Protect one quiet window.** Even fifteen minutes of unhurried time, just the two of you, or with your closest people, gives the film somewhere to breathe.

- ◆ **Communicate your priorities.** Tell your coordinator and photographer what matters most to you, so the whole team is aligned.
- ◆ **Protect the speeches.** Keep toasts early in the reception, before energy and volume peak. Audio is cleaner and guests are more attentive.
- ◆ **Don't skip the getting-ready.** This is consistently where some of the most genuine, unguarded moments happen. Give it time.

Your wedding is not a production set. The film should support the day you're having, not replace it.

10 · The Day-Of: What to Expect From Us

One of the most common things couples tell us before their wedding is that they are nervous about being on camera. That is completely normal. Most people we work with have never been professionally filmed before. They are not actors. They are not models. They are simply people getting married.

"You only need to be present. We'll handle everything else."

Our Arrival

We arrive at least 30 minutes before coverage begins to scout the space, check lighting, test audio equipment, and coordinate with your photographer and coordinator. You should never feel like we're rushing when coverage starts.

Getting-Ready Coverage

Getting-ready coverage is intentionally relaxed. We're not directing poses or asking you to stop conversations. We're documenting what's already happening: the quiet moments, the laughter, the details, dresses, rings, flowers, meaningful objects. Some of the most powerful footage comes from this window of the day.

During the Ceremony

We position ourselves to capture all key angles without becoming a distraction. We use wireless audio equipment to capture vows and officiant words clearly. We work within whatever guidelines your venue or officiant has established around camera positioning.

Portraits and Formals

During portrait time, we coordinate closely with your photographer. We're capturing the natural moments between poses, the laughter, the quiet exchanges, the reactions, rather than asking for dedicated video time that competes with photography.

Reception

During cocktail hour and reception, we move through the space naturally, capturing ambient moments, guest interactions, and the atmosphere of the room. For speeches and dances, we position for dedicated coverage with close audio.

What We Ask of You

- ◆ **Just be present.** You don't need to perform for us or be aware of where we are at all times.
- ◆ **Tell us your priorities.** If there's a specific guest, moment, or sequence that matters most to you, tell us beforehand.
- ◆ **Introduce us to your coordinator.** They'll help us stay in the right place at the right time throughout the day.
- ◆ **Trust us.** The moments that tend to matter most in a wedding film are the ones nobody planned.

11 · Working With Your Full Vendor Team

A wedding day is a collaboration. Your photographer, coordinator, DJ, caterer, and videographer are all working toward the same goal: a seamless, beautiful day for you. How well those vendors work together directly affects how your day feels and what ends up on film.

Videographer & Photographer

The relationship between your photographer and videographer is the most important vendor relationship to think about carefully. When they work well together, they enhance each other's work. When they don't, they can interfere with each other, which affects both your photos and your film.

At Gilded Heart Films, we take this relationship seriously. We communicate with the photography team in advance, coordinate positioning during key moments, and work to stay out of each other's shots. If we haven't worked with your photographer before, we'll reach out to introduce ourselves.

When evaluating videographers, ask: Do they have experience working alongside other vendors? Do they understand how to share space? Can they name photographers they've worked well with?

Videographer & Coordinator

Your wedding coordinator is the operational backbone of the day. We rely on them to communicate timeline changes, signal when key moments are approaching, and keep us informed when things shift. We always make a point of connecting with your coordinator early in the day.

Videographer & DJ / Sound

For speeches and toasts, we typically take a line-level feed from the DJ's soundboard or position a dedicated audio recorder near the speaker. Coordinating with your DJ in advance ensures the audio in your film is clean and clear, not just what the room microphone picks up.

Sharing Your Vendor Information

Before your wedding, share your full vendor list with your videographer. Names, contact information, and any notes about specific preferences. This allows us to prepare, reach out where appropriate, and walk into your wedding day as part of a coordinated team rather than a stranger in the room.

"When vendors are aligned, the day flows better for everyone, and the film reflects it."

12 · After the Wedding: Delivery & Your Gallery

The wedding is over. You're officially married. And now the waiting begins. Here's what to expect during the editing and delivery process.

What Happens After Your Wedding Day

- ◆ **Footage backup:** Immediately after your wedding, we back up all footage to multiple drives. This is the most critical step, footage loss is irreversible.
- ◆ **Review and logging:** We review all captured footage, log the key moments, and begin building the editorial structure of your film.
- ◆ **Music selection:** We select music that fits the tone and atmosphere of your specific day. We work with licensed music libraries to ensure your films can be shared online without copyright restrictions.
- ◆ **Editing:** The highlight film is edited first, followed by the full ceremony edit. This is the most time-intensive phase.
- ◆ **Color grading:** Footage is color-graded to ensure a consistent, cinematic look that holds true across different scenes and lighting conditions.
- ◆ **Delivery:** Your films are uploaded to your private gallery and delivered for your review.

Your Gallery

Final films are delivered through an online gallery accessible by link. There is no password required. Your gallery is beautifully presented and accessible from any device. You'll be able to download your films in full resolution for archiving and share the link directly with family and friends.

We use a third-party gallery service to deliver your films. While we choose our platform carefully, that service is ultimately outside our direct control. For this reason, we strongly encourage every couple to download their films and back them up personally, both on a local hard drive and a cloud service like Google Drive, iCloud, or similar. The more redundancy you build into your backup plan, the better. Do not rely solely on the gallery as your permanent archive.

Turnaround Time

We deliver within 1–2 months of your wedding date. We've made this a priority because we believe couples should be able to relive their wedding while the memories are still vivid, not receive a film six months later when the day already feels distant.

Sharing Your Film

When you receive your film, you're free to share it however you'd like: social media, email, private link to family. Because we use licensed music, your films can be shared on platforms like Instagram and Facebook without copyright flags.

If you'd like to share your film publicly, on social media, wedding blogs, or vendor pages, we'd love to know. Seeing couples enjoy and share their films is one of our favorite parts of this work.

13 · Frequently Asked Questions

Do we need to do anything specific to prepare for filming?

Not really. The most useful thing you can do is build some breathing room into your timeline, communicate your priorities to us beforehand, and introduce us to your coordinator. Beyond that: just be present. You don't need to memorize poses or prepare anything for the camera.

We're nervous about being on camera. Is that normal?

Completely normal. The vast majority of couples we work with have never been professionally filmed before. Our approach is specifically designed to take the pressure off, we document rather than direct, and we work hard to become invisible so you forget we're there.

What if it rains?

Rain doesn't stop a wedding, and it doesn't stop us. We work in all weather conditions. Drone coverage may not be possible in heavy rain or wind, but all other coverage continues as planned.

Can we choose our own music?

We're happy to discuss music preferences during our planning conversation. We work with licensed music libraries, which ensures your films can be shared on social media without copyright issues. If you have a specific song in mind, we'll let you know whether it's available through our licensing.

What if we want to add coverage time?

We're happy to discuss extended coverage beyond eight hours. Reach out before your wedding to arrange additional time.

How do you handle drone coverage if the venue doesn't allow it?

We always confirm venue permissions before your wedding. If drone coverage isn't permitted, we communicate this clearly and ensure every other aspect of coverage is maximized.

Will you be at our wedding personally?

We are a small studio, which means the owner may not always be the one behind the camera at your wedding. What we do guarantee is that your videographer will be someone we've worked with extensively, whose work we know and trust, and who is fully prepared for your specific day. We also maintain backup videographers on call at all times. This structure is intentional. A solo creative getting sick or having an emergency the morning of your wedding has no backup. We do. Coverage falling through is one of the worst things that can happen, and our team structure exists specifically to prevent it.

What if something happens and you can't make it?

This is an extremely rare situation, but we take it seriously. We maintain relationships with trusted colleagues in the Michigan videography community who can step in as a last resort. Any such arrangement would be communicated to you immediately.

Do you shoot in 4K?

Yes. All footage is captured in 4K and delivered in 4K, both your final films and your RAW footage archive.

How far in advance should we book?

The urgency around booking early is mostly relevant for solo creatives and hobbyists, who can only take one wedding per weekend and have no flexibility. At Gilded Heart Films, we do not operate on manufactured scarcity or charge more based on how close your date is. We have a dedicated small studio team that can reliably serve several weddings in a single weekend. That means you can book us weeks before your wedding, not months, and still receive the same flawless service. If your date is available, you're in good hands regardless of when you reach out.

14 · Michigan Venues & Coverage Areas

We serve couples across Michigan, from the Metro Detroit area to the Upper Peninsula. Travel throughout Michigan is included with every package at no additional cost.

Areas We Serve

We serve couples anywhere in Michigan. No part of the state is out of range, and Michigan-wide travel is included with every package at no additional cost. The table below lists commonly requested areas, but it is not a limit.

Southeast Michigan	West Michigan	Northern Michigan
Detroit & Metro Area Ann Arbor Rochester Bloomfield Hills Grosse Pointe Northville Saline Ypsilanti	Grand Rapids Holland Kalamazoo Saugatuck St. Joseph Traverse City Petoskey	Frankenmuth Bay City Midland Mackinac Island Charlevoix Bellaire Northern UP

Don't see your location? Reach out. We regularly travel throughout Michigan and are happy to discuss your venue location.

Venue Experience

We've filmed at a wide variety of Michigan venues: historic barns, lakefront estates, downtown hotels, vineyard properties, state parks, and intimate backyards. Familiarity with your venue means we know where the light is, where to position for ceremony coverage, and what logistical challenges to anticipate.

If we haven't filmed at your venue before, we may request a venue visit or detailed floor plan in advance to ensure we're fully prepared on your wedding day.

Outdoor & Destination Weddings

Michigan offers exceptional outdoor wedding settings, lakeshores, forests, vineyards, and dramatic northern landscapes. We love outdoor weddings. We're also realistic about the planning they require: contingency plans for weather, drone coordination with outdoor venues, and lighting preparation for open-sky ceremonies.

If you're planning an outdoor wedding, let us know early so we can discuss the specific considerations for your venue and date.

15 · How to Reach Us

We'd love to hear about your wedding. Whether you're ready to book, still in the early stages of planning, or just have a question, reach out.

Gilded Heart Films

Michigan Wedding Videography

Website: gildedheartfilms.com

What happens after you reach out:

- 01** Upon inquiring, you'll immediately receive a link to secure a consult call at a time that works for you.
- 02** On the call, we'll hear about your wedding, answer your questions, and make sure it feels like a good fit.
- 03** If it feels right, we'll send over our contract and booking information.
- 04** Once booked, we'll stay in touch throughout your planning process and be fully prepared on your wedding day.

“Let the day happen.”

Gilded Heart Films