

Photos are printed with both wedding and engagement announcements in *The Independent*, unlike some larger newspapers that print only one or the other. *The Independent* does adhere to strict guidelines, however, when printing those photos.

"Before choosing a photo to submit, take a look at the wedding and engagement photos printed each Sunday in the paper," suggests Terri Hahn, features editor. "Make sure that your photo works within the parameters we have set up."

Hahn offered these guidelines for wedding and engagement photos:

- ▶ Formal shots are not required; snapshots are OK. Backgrounds should be uncluttered – watch for signs, people, wall decorations, etc., that may not be noticeable in a color photo but may really stand out in black and white. Also watch out for faces shadowed by hats.

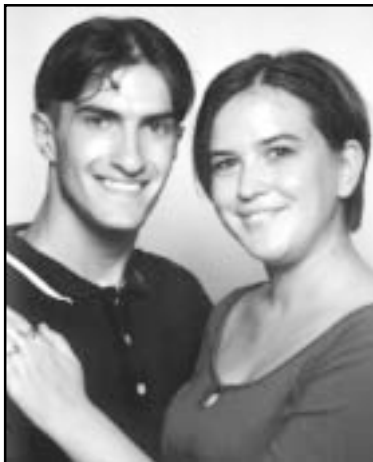
- ▶ Full-length photos of the bride and groom taken from the back of the church will not work if the picture is smaller than 8 by 10 inches. Faces in the original photo should be at least the size of a quarter. Large photos can be reduced to fit the newspaper's format.

- ▶ Soft photos may look great in color, but when converted to black and white, they simply look out of focus. Sharp photos with good contrast reproduce the best in the newspaper. Watch out for dark backgrounds and hats that cause dark shadows.

- ▶ Vertical photos fit the format best, but make sure the two people in the photo are close enough to both fit in the picture. Along the same lines, if one person is quite a bit taller than the other, don't submit a photo where one person is standing behind the other, etc.

- ▶ Do not depend on your wedding photographer to submit the photo to the newspaper. Getting the photo to the newspaper is the responsibility of the bride and groom or their families.

- ▶ Included with this packet is a release form that **MUST** be returned with both engagement and wedding photos (if the same photographer will be taking both photos, one release form will suffice, but indicate on the form that it is for both photos). We are required to have this form on file if your pictures were taken by a pro-



Engagement and wedding photos for Amanda and Chris Patton display proper lighting, correct composition and sharp contrast. The bride and groom are close together with good lighting and no distractions. Both photos will reproduce well in the newspaper.

fessional photographer. If this form is not submitted with the photos, we **CANNOT** print your photo.

- ▶ Original black and white or color photos reproduce the best in the newspaper. Polaroid photos, PMTs from other newspapers and color photocopies generally do not reproduce well.

- ▶ Photos can also be e-mailed to *The Independent*. Scan in the photo at 200 dpi so it is about 4 inches wide. Do not crop the photo; leave that to the newspaper staff so the photo will be sure to fit the paper's format. Save the photo as a JPEG (preferred) or TIFF document and e-mail it to thahn@theindependent.com.

- ▶ Photos will be returned if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included with the photo. Otherwise, photos may be picked up at *The Independent* office, 422 W. First, after the announcement has been published.

"I know this sounds like a lot of don'ts and shouldn'ts," Hahn said of the photo guidelines, "but our goal is to make the bride and groom look good in the newspaper. We realize that people clip these announcements for scrapbooks and wedding albums, and we don't want someone embarrassed

by a photo that didn't turn out well."

Deadlines

Engagement announcements should be submitted to the newspaper at least four weeks before the wedding date.

Wedding announcements should be received within two months after the ceremony.

If the deadline is approaching and you anticipate a problem meeting that deadline, Hahn suggests calling the newspaper and discussing the problem before the deadline. Don't wait until after the deadline has passed to call – call as soon as you see a problem.

"We understand that there may be problems with wedding photos not being ready or other circumstances," Hahn said. "Call us, and we will work with you. We often have solutions to those problems."

She also suggested not waiting until the wedding photos have made the family rounds or until the final package is ordered. Often proofs are ready early, and those work well for newspaper publication. Photographers will often provide a black and white proof specifically for the newspaper.

Common photo problems

Independent photographer Ann Enevoldsen took these photos to illustrate common problems with wedding pictures.



ABOVE: The groom is standing behind, not next to, the bride. This photo cannot be cropped to fit the newspaper's format without cutting off either the top of the groom's head or the bride's chin.

RIGHT: The sun's light is too harsh on the bride's and groom's faces. Another common problem (not shown here) is a hat causing dark shadows on the groom's face.



LEFT: Bride and groom are too far away from the camera and a pole seems to be growing out of the groom's head.

BELOW: The bride and groom are standing too far apart. Also, a "mystery person" is behind the couple.

