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PHOTOGRAPHY

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POSED NEWBORN SESSION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How can I encourage my baby to sleep for the session?

A: The cooperation of your child is largely dependent upon his or her individual personality, but photographing at the right time can really help with sleepy “squishy” poses. Important considerations include:

1. Photographing the child between 7-14 days after birth is ideal because they are still very sleepy and flexible in terms of poses. If you can't make this window, don't worry as it only potentially prohibits a few poses.
2. Scheduling shoots for mid-morning (If you are already noticing that your child naps more soundly in the afternoon than morning, we can certainly work in an afternoon session instead.)
3. Keeping the child awake at least 1 hour before the session and then feeding immediately before.
4. A very warm room with white noise. (I provide a small space heater and sound machine, but you may want to consider raising the temperature of the room slightly as well if your session is at home.)
5. A calm atmosphere. Please make arrangements to ensure that no more than two adults (not including myself) and no additional children are present for posed newborn shoots. This ensures that everyone on set is paying attention to the needs of the baby during the session to promote maximum safety and efficiency in posing. In between setups, feel free to relax and enjoy a beverage!

Q: What do you provide?

A: In terms of equipment, I provide lighting where needed, a space heater, a sound machine, posing aids, blanket/backdrops, and fabric wraps. I have various vessels and props from which to choose. Often this is all that is needed to achieve a great set of photos. We will discuss in your questionnaire what themes, colors, or props you are interested in incorporating. You may be asked to provide certain personal items.

Q: What do I need to provide?

A: Please have diapers and wipes, milk, pacifier, and/or comfort objects with you. Newborns are typically nude or wrapped in fabrics for this style of photography. You may bring a special outfit if you'd like and any hats or accessories that you think might work. Please bring any sentimental, theme, or

otherwise requested items with you if we talked about them during the consultation. I will do my best to incorporate these items but make no guarantees based on quantity, time, and cooperation of the child.

Q: What safety precautions are necessary?

A: The safety and comfort of your child is of the utmost concern to me during our time together. A few considerations in particular:

1. I will ask someone on set (typically the parent) to be near the child at all times as a “spotter”. This is particularly important when your child is positioned on/in a prop or during tricky poses. Most poses where the child is propped on their arms or suspended in any manner are actually composite poses where they are supported by an adult from different angles for several pictures that are made into one during post-processing.
2. Sand bags or other weights are used when babies are leaned on props to prevent tipping. They are also used on all of my lighting equipment to keep soft boxes upright.
3. I wash all of my blankets and wraps between newborns. However, my home is not pet-free and I do not currently use a hypo-allergenic detergent.
4. If anyone on set is or has recently been ill, please let me know immediately. Precautions are always taken regarding hand washing but additional precautions (including postponement of the session) may be needed to protect your child and any other who come in contact with my props and posing items. I try to always have hand sanitizer with me as well to use before touching newborns.
5. As a mother myself, I am comfortable holding, wrapping, and posing children. I keep a keen eye on the temperature of the environment and the behavior of the child.

Q: Should I be concerned about the use of my child’s image?

A: Part of my contract gives me permission to use your images for promotion, social media, blogging, etc. and that may concern some parents. While I reserve the right to use the images I create to benefit my brand, I will do my best to honor the wishes of parents regarding their children’s privacy. We will discuss in advance if you would like me to tag you on social media or not, use a pseudonym or initials in place of the child’s name, or omit any shots involving identifiable family members.

Q: What degree of editing/post-processing can I expect?

A: Posed newborn sessions usually involve a lot of post-processing compared to lifestyle sessions. For these perfected shots I will do my best to remove scaly skin, baby acne, hangnails, and any other common newborn issues. I avoid editing out birthmarks or other things that make your baby unique. If you have any concerns about editing, please let me know ahead of time.

Q: Do you have professional print options available?

A: I strongly advocate for professional print labs. The quality of their images is legitimately superior. I can help you coordinate an order through a professional lab. I also offer services to design birth announcements or photo books. I often shoot with or edit in negative space specifically for the purpose of adding text. I provide both a cropped and uncropped option in your collection. If for any reason you need a different crop, don’t hesitate to ask. Often the images have space around them in the original file that I can reclaim for a different aspect ratio.

Q: Babies in baskets really don't do it for me. What are my options for less posed/more realistic photos?

A. I prefer to always do at least one setup with a very clean aesthetic – wrapped baby on a backdrop. I would also encourage you to consider a setup with neutral colors or limited props. A nice black and white series of your child (typically nude and on a black backdrop or being held by parents) is also an option. If none of this appeals to you, perhaps consider an un-posed lifestyle session instead.