



Frequently Asked Questions

PORTRAITS

You have a very distinct look in your family sessions. What is it?

I shoot a mixed-documentary style. My images of your family will be a mix of candid and real, thoughtful and beautiful, and silly and sweet. The moments I capture are real, not forced. I do suggested positioning when necessary and sometimes move to the best light, but otherwise I let things unfold.

The photos from your session will mean more to you as time goes on. They will be little reminders of how your children were and what your life was at that moment. A group of images that reveal that moment in your life. A standard stiff portrait session that produces only posed body shots and head swaps to get the best smile won't give you that feeling. It's not what I choose to hang on my walls.

Describe your sessions.

I prefer to come to you. I can take images in your home, no matter how small. Or I can meet you somewhere that has meaning in your life, even a shopping mall or downtown. I've done it all! After years of doing studio work, I realized that I was missing the story in people. Though I was taking beautiful, framable art, I realized that images said nothing about what the people were like and who they were. I want a little of the story mixed in. I do have a temporary studio I set up on occasion for pregnancy portraits and fine-art.

Families: I love shooting in someone's home, in their rooms where they live their life. There isn't anything much sweeter than a toddler taking my hand and showing me his toys and books, and looking out his own window. We can step inside and out, and take walks. We can also head to a park. I can go wherever.

Infants: If you have only one baby, less than a year old, and two parents, this is for you. I take sweet baby shots and include Mom and Dad in some as well. Call me, and we can talk

the best time to get the look you want. Babies change so quickly, I often do sessions during the first week.

Pregnancy: I love doing it solo, with Daddy, or with the whole family. A solo or couple session will be much more fine-art based, with posing and beautiful light. For families with another in the oven--it's more of free-for-all with a little more attention spent on you bun! That would then be Family Portrait Session.

Engagement: There is a little more posing going on with this, and I like to either go to your home or to a favorite spot. We relax and have a little spontaneous fun.

Trash the Dress: This is a total poser session, and SO MUCH FUN! It's time to take that wedding dress and not worry about getting it dirty. It's fashion-based and has an edge. I want to create a session that doesn't feel artificial or forced, but natural, fun and beautiful. I want your images to rock!

What should we wear?

If you are looking at my site, you should get an idea you'll probably end up on the floor or ground at some point, so pass on the mini-skirt or bright white pants. Make sure your clothes go-together (not matching per say, just not clashing). I advise people to lay them out on the bed before putting them on. Try to avoid bold patterns. Muted colors and patterns work best. Black and white together are really tricky together in the sun. The camera can't do both.

I'm not sure my kid(s) will last two hours?

No kid will last for two hours of posing, but I don't pose kids. I let them be kids, and I want you to try to keep up with them. We'll have little breaks where we'll focus on other things, like snacks. Sometimes sessions run over, and sometimes it was so successful we wrap up early.

Snacks: It's always a good idea to bring a little drink and a snack to calm down an unhappy/hungry kid. But pull them out as a last resort. I end up with a lot of kids walking around with goldfish for an hour--you can't take them away without huge tears.

And no matter what, it's in the parent's attitudes. You need to come and enjoy being together. The best images come when the parents are just having fun together, even if the toddler is melting down. They'll come around.

So, how much?

A Documentary Family Session and Trash the Dress Shoot shoot run \$400 for up to two hours of my time and talent within the DC-metro area, and include online proofing for weekday sessions. Weekend sessions run a \$100 more per session. A DVD of your proofs

(good for printing of 4x6) is \$100, and will include a full set of 4x6 digital proofs and a full set of low resolution, watermarked images to share on public sites.

An Infant or Maternity Session run \$300 for up to one hour of my time and talent within the DC-metro area, and include online proofing for a weekday session. Weekend sessions run a \$100 more per session. A DVD of your proofs (good for printing of 4x6 snapshots) is \$100, and will include a full set of 4x6 digital proofs and a full set of low resolution watermarked images to share on public sites.

I don't understand "4x6 digital proofs"? Can I print them large?

I have actually changed my business model concerning high-res proof files to clients, which are good for large prints. I have walked into too many of my clients' homes to see images printed large at Costco (or wherever) without any final touching up, sharpening, or photoshopping. And I cringe. Sure the print only cost \$5, but it looks like it cost \$5. And it's framed, on their wall. "And my photographer is Linda Crayton!" The proofs I send are perfect for 4x6, can be pushed to 5x7, but if you are framing it, it's better to go with a professional printer and have the images finalized by me.

In my model, I want my clients to have all their proofs, forever, to look at and enjoy. My photos are a story of your time, so I want you to have a bunch and be able to print away and pass them around, or use them on your holiday cards. But if a client is going to enlarge them, I want them to order through my reasonable online service. I receive every image ordered. I finalize it, and then send it to a professional printer where they use archival ink and paper.

I can't finalize every proof, because there are well over 50 proofs from every session. That would take me hours to finalize--and I would have to raise my prices to \$1,000 for a DVD of finalized high-res images. I think I have found a happy medium.

How do I contact you?

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