



## Frequently Asked Questions

### PORTRAITS

#### **Your family, as it is, perfectly.**

You will get so much out of the session, but what you won't get is some stodgy, canned portrait. It's not what I do. Your images from my session will take you back to that day, and moment. You will see every real smile, and every little tear. You'll see your life.

This session is about you just being you--laughing, hugging, bah-hum-bugging, holding hands, putting your feet up, throwing the biggest temper tantrum ever (kids only, please), dancing, rolling around or sharing a meal. It's just you and your family, as it is.

The sessions are casual and flowing. There aren't many taboos. I expect a baby to goo up my camera and the dog to lick the lens (I'll clean it). I wear dark clothes because I expect I might get dirty rolling on the ground. Knowing your home and your life are like mine, and will not be the same next year, I made my photography focus on the whole of you today.

Kids are kids. Families are families. And it's as it's meant to be. Perfect, really.

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

I shoot a mixed-documentary style. The moments I capture are real. I do suggested positioning and ask for certain actions (can you read that book to the 2-year old that won't sit for a second), and sometimes move to the better light, but otherwise I let things unfold and suggest when it's time to move on to the next scene. Even the most unwilling participants, from kids to the harried parent checking their Blackberry, find their zone and enjoy the time.

We will talk ahead of time about what you are looking for in the session. What type of art do you want in the end. A canvas or a beautifully-framed print? Or a gorgeous leather album to have and hold forever. I can give you an idea of your investment.

## **Describe your sessions.**

I come to you in the DC-Metro area. I can take images in your home, no matter how small, dark or unfurnished. Or I can meet you somewhere that has meaning in your life, even a shopping mall or downtown. I want a little of the story in the photos that show you being you.

I love shooting in someone's home, in their rooms where they live their life. Your home is only going to look exactly like this for a short time, so it is nice to have it be a part of the memories. And 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 head to a park. We can lay on the bed, or jump on it. I love taking a Mom-to-be into the unfinished nursery for a few pre-baby portraits. You have no idea how much more you are going to love that little person inside of you!

## **What should we wear?**

Whatever makes you feel good! 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 blend (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 to shoot in the sun.

## **I'm not sure my kid(s) will do well with a photographer. They are so shy.**

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. I'm like an Aunt that show up to play and roll on the ground, or talk to. We'll have little breaks where we'll focus on other things. But I have yet to have a session where I'm not "in" for a few moments with even the most fickle pre-schooler.

Snacks: It's always a good idea to have a little drink and a snack to calm down an unhappy/hungry kid. But pull them out as a last resort.

And no matter what, parents come ready to play. Enjoy the moment and be present, no matter the chaos. The best images come when the parents are just having fun, even if the kids are not. They'll come around. Some parents/partners are not such willing participants, and that's OK too. Not everybody likes to have the camera right there, but my spirit and helpful ideas help even the most uncomfortable adults feel like naturals.

## **So, how much?**

A weekday session is \$500 for a one-to-two hours of shooting time and talent within the DC-metro area, professional print up to 8 x12 inches (or equal credit), a follow-up session where I show you the images from the session and we talk about what really works for you, then you

receive your online proofing gallery and all your web-ready, water-marked proofs. Weekend sessions run a \$100 more per session.

Prints are available starting at \$20 for a 4x6, \$35 for a 5x7, \$50 for 8x12, and \$100 for a 12 x18. Other sizes are available. If your order is \$500 or more, the high-resolution digital files of those ordered prints is included.

First-year series? I sure do! There is nothing like getting that little muffin all scrunched up as a newborn, and then shooting them again and again until they are a year. Then we make an album. The first session is \$500. Every following session is \$400 per session. Then we put it all together to make an album. The gorgeous leather 6 X 9-inch album is \$1000. If you want to book a First-Year session on Day One, including up to 4 sessions and a finished album, \$2800.

Sessions usually last about an hour, but we can be flexible to allow for time to walk, or drive, or snack, or relax. I'll know when I have what I needed to make a sweet collection of images.

### **I don't understand "web-ready, water-marked images"? Can I print them large?**

I want my clients to have all their digital proofs, it is your story, to look at and enjoy. They will be beautiful on the screen of your phone or iPad, social site, or digital frame. But when it comes time to print them, we are talking about art that is meant to last forever. There is \*nothing\* like an gorgeous image finalized by a photographer and sent to a professional lab.

If you decide to design your own cards, or want one of your images in high-resolution, you can purchase individual, finalized, high-resolution images from your online album for \$100 per image. If you order the print, the high-resolution image of that image is available for \$50.

### **What should I do with my photos, besides love them?**

My sessions really lends itself to a beautiful album. There won't be one final picture to love, it will be a bunch! The album includes about 30 images over 20 pages, is bound in beautiful leather on thick pages. It looks so clean and modern on the outside sitting on your coffee table or on your bookshelf, but it's so my fun to open! Gorgeous.

Canvases, prints, or color mounts adorn many walls of my families. I can help you decide what looks perfect in your home, whether traditional or modern. I have contacts with many different companies that provide a wide variety of mediums, and I love finding exactly what is unique to you.

I design birth announcements and holiday cards using your images. The cards are professionally designed, finished and completely perfect for you.

### **How do I contact you?**

Email: [linda@lindacrayton.com](mailto:linda@lindacrayton.com)

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