



PORTRAIT SESSION CONSIDERATIONS

What should I wear for my family portrait session?

Wear clothes that make you feel great! The picture is about YOU and not your clothes, however, there are some guidelines that will help you and your family look your best.

- **General Comments**

- Be well-rested. You will look your best when well-rested.
- Wear solid colors for best results. Avoid clothes with busy patterns, large lines, bold stripes, or distracting logos. Solid colors and materials with texture work best to add visual interest without being overwhelming.
- All clothing should be either ironed or steamed to reduce wrinkles. Wrinkles are very noticeable on camera!
- Choose clothing colors that compliment your skin tone and eye color. Avoid white, yellow, red, and bright orange that impact your skin tones. Earth tones or softer jewel tones (aqua, maroon, blue, emerald, plum) to best flatter your eyes.
- For outdoor shoots, avoid wearing too much green to avoid blending into the landscape/environment.
- Long sleeves generally are the most flattering style and are highly recommended. They have a slimming effect.
- If you normally wear glasses, feel free to wear them in the photo. While there is sometimes a glare, I can usually eliminate or greatly reduce it.
- Avoid tops that are baggy or boxy as they may make you appear bigger on camera.
- Your hands might be in the pictures, so come with neat nails.
- If you plan to get a new haircut or style, schedule it at least two weeks before the session to allow it time to settle.
- If you decide you want to wear a watch, -clean it to avoid showing dust, as it will likely be featured in the photo, especially if you fold your arms.
- If wearing a top that will be untucked, choose one that is longer to help elongate the torso.
- For those with graying hair, wear darker colors (but avoid light gray) to create contrast.

- If you have a light skin tone, avoid pastels which can wash you out.
- Form-fitting jackets or cardigans will help slim the arms.
- Bottom line: bring a few changes of clothing which will all help you to be you! Consider clothing that others have told you look great on you.

- **Women**

- Keep jewelry conservative. Avoid anything large that would distract from your face or appear dated. Choose simple earrings or necklaces.
- Different necklines will change the perceived shape of your face, so experiment in the mirror before you come to the shoot. It is probably best to avoid turtlenecks or larger cowl neck sweaters which completely hide your neck. Likewise, avoid anything with a plunging neckline.
- ⊖ Opt for comfortable yet flattering silhouettes.
- Avoid capped or large puffy sleeves when possible.
- If your nails are painted, consider a soft natural color or a French manicure.

- **Men**

- Make sure your jacket, shirt, and tie (if worn) fit properly at the neck. If you choose not to wear a jacket or sports coat, a darker color shirt is preferred over a solid white dress shirt.
- Nice jeans with a button-up shirt look great for a casual look.
- Bring multiple shirt options – dark, light, a collared shirt, and a t-shirt.
- A long-sleeved button-up shirt is versatile; you can wear it long or roll up the sleeves for a more casual look.
- Consider shaving prior to the session and take a moment to check your eyebrows, nose and ear hairs. The camera sees all!

- **Children**

- First, definitely consider your child's preferences when dressing them for portraits. If they feel good about themselves, they will shine in their portraits.
- Your outfit choices need to fit your child...now. Do not bring outfits that you have purchased for them to "grow into".
- Just as with adults, and especially with small children, bright colors and big, bold pattern can overwhelm a child's small face and pale complexion.
- Variety is key. Bring a number of change options so you can decide what you like best on camera.

- Remember, the focus will always be on capturing your child's face and expression. Clothing and accessories are just accents that should not take the focus away from your child's face.
- **Group Shots (Couples and Families)**
 - Avoid identical "matching" outfits, which can look dated. Instead, coordinate your family's outfits by choosing a complementary color scheme and style.
 - Avoid distracting patterns, logos, or images on clothing.
 - Be careful about mixed styles where one is wearing a trendy outfit and one is wearing a classic outfit. Your outfit choices should blend stylistically along with complimentary coloring.
- **Pets**
 - Make sure your pet is clean, especially around the face and eyes.
 - You may want to consider having a collar that matches your chosen color palette.

The above are suggestions to help make your shoot as fun as possible while helping me provide the pictures you will treasure. However, if you want to throw the suggestions all away and go wild, you do you!

But please bring a few clothing options....just in case 😊

I look forward to making this a fun experience capturing you and your family!