



WEDDING PORTRAIT

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PHOTOGRAPHY



The Family
Style Guide



Welcome!



Hello friend! I am so excited to help you create wonderful memories and images that you will cherish forever as life changes and children grow!



I have gotten to photograph families small and large, families with young children, families with grown children, and families with dogs as children so regardless of where you fit in, I created this guide for you, and packed it with a bunch of secrets for getting the best out of your family photo experience, so let's dive right in!

The basics

The location of your portrait session is up to you (unless you signed up for one of my Mini Session Days)! For most of my sessions; outdoor, open-air environments are always my first choice. I love shooting in wide-open natural spaces because the light is divine, especially during golden hour (about 1 hour before sunset).

Some photographers will suggest you stay away from patterns. I am NOT "some photographer" haha! Don't get me wrong, solid colors are amazing and really draw your eye to the subject (YOU!) in the photo, but patterns (stripes, florals, polka dots) when done tastefully can be absolutely show-stopping!

This guide is exactly that: A GUIDE. It is not law, and it's okay to break a few of the "rules" in here if you have a piece you love and feel super confident in. I'm not going to roll my eyes and say "he's wearing jeans," or "she's wearing a sleeveless dress." But I also want you to take it seriously because you are making an investment in your session and I want you to have the most stunning images. A lot of that comes down to what you wear and HOW YOU FEEL about what you wear.





STYLE TIPS

For her

Have you thought about rocking a sequined gown, tulle skirt or flower crown but just never had an occasion for it? This is your chance to do it up! Remember: There is no such thing as “too dressed up” when it comes to your family session, so don’t be afraid to have some fun!

Long, flowy dresses and skirts look amazing on camera because they bring extra movement to the photos. Especially when juxtaposed with nature. Cute, shorter-length dresses photograph beautifully as well. Dresses and skirts tend to look most stunning on camera because they really flatter the female body — which is probably why the red carpet is always full of so many dresses and not very many pantsuits! However, if you want to rock those killer jeans, then do it girl! You look great in them! Wear what makes you feel confident!



As you're coordinating your outfit with your family, keep in mind that your outfits will look the most cohesive on camera when the color palettes coordinate, but don't necessarily "match." You should each aim to wear a different dominant color, but stay within a similar color palette family. So, if you're wearing a blush dress, soft blue earrings and nude heels (blush being your dominant color), then he could wear a navy coat with gray pants, paired with brown leather shoes and maybe even a blush pocket square. Now he has his own dominant color (navy) while still incorporating a few touches of your color palette.

Wear what flatters you

In my experience, every woman, regardless of her shape has an area of her body that she's self-conscious about, so recognizing what that in advance is key. Choosing flattering silhouettes and colors that compliment your natural features is the best way to ensure you'll love the way you look in your photos. Three-quarter length sleeves create an awesome slimming effect on all arms, so be on the lookout for an option with a longer length sleeve. You could also bring a cute jacket, blazer or cardigan along, too. Skinny straps or strapless dresses have the opposite effect on arms on camera, so I recommend avoiding those whenever possible if your goal is a set of slimmer-looking arms. Heels elongate women's legs, making them look fabulous. Closed-toes heels in particular look great on camera because they carry out the line of your leg all the way down to your toe. If your toes are showing in a peep-toe heel, you might want to schedule a pedicure before your session so you don't regret letting your feet show. These little tricks make all the difference!





STYLE TIPS

For him

Next time you walk by a store like J. Crew or H&M, you'll notice the male mannequins and models are always wearing several layers at once. Layers on men look great on camera, so even when it's hot outside, trust me when I say that it's worth an hour or two of discomfort for photos that will last you both a lifetime. Adding another layer will bring extra dimension and visual interest to your photos. Blazers, vests and coats up the level of any look. If the temperature permits, he could even consider adding a v-neck sweater with a pop of color from a long-sleeved collared shirt and tie underneath. Don't be afraid to get a little creative with layers!

*Don't be
afraid to
dress up
a bit!*

Long pants and closed-toed shoes are the most sophisticated and masculine looks for men. They draw attention away from his legs and feet and place it on the face. So, for your session, it's best to leave the shorts, sandals and jeans at home, too. Suit pants, dress pants or colored pants work best. Brown leather dress shoes compliment almost every look, whether he's wearing a full suit or a blazer and colored pants. Ties, bowties, pocket squares, colored socks, belts, tie clips, suspenders, vests and watches are sharp compliments to any outfit.





STYLE TIPS

For the kids

Children don't usually have a long attention span and have the tendency to enjoy what you put them in one day and hate it the next. Because of the unpredictability of children I suggest having a couple options picked out. Choose clothing that sets the child apart, not clothing that blends the child with your clothing.

Don't be afraid to have fun with your little one's clothing. Bring an extra shirt that's funny or something memorable. Shoes and headbands are perfect accessories for a small child, these items really help complete the look. For older children, let them pick out part of their outfit because that will help them feel more proud to show off the look for the camera.



I know I just gave you a lot to think about. I created this guide to help make your family session experience something you'll look back fondly on for years to come. At the end of the day, though, the location you choose and the outfits you select won't matter nearly as much as the memories you make together. Your future together is the most important thing to me, and I want your family session to be a time for you to just be yourselves and enjoy it. Have fun together. Laugh a lot. And I'll take care of the rest!

