

PORTRAIT SESSION

STYLE GUIDE



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XO,

Gloria

I'm so excited for your portrait session! Whether I'm photographing your sweet family or your graduating senior, or doing a session to celebrate a special moment in your life, like your anniversary or a pregnancy, I want you to know that I'm honored to be your photographer, and humbled that you've trusted me with the responsibility of helping you create memories you'll look back on and cherish for a lifetime.

My goal is simple: for your session to be as fun and stress-free as possible! That's why I've created this guide just for you! The following pages will help you get the absolute most out of your photos.

By the time you've read through it, you'll have all of your questions answered and feel ready and prepared for your session! This guide is packed with my best tips, tricks and insider secrets for scheduling and styling your portrait session -- and everything in between. Your only job is to be yourself, laugh a lot, have fun and let me do the rest! I can't wait to get you in front of my camera and I'm so excited to see you soon!



WHAT TO EXPECT AT

YOUR PORTRAIT SESSION

Knowing what to expect during your portrait session is the key to photos you love!

You may be a little worried about what to expect from your session, but I promise you we'll make it fun!

Most people aren't overly excited to take photos for an hour or more, mostly because they don't have an expectation of what's to come. You chose me and my style of photography because you know I'd like to achieve natural, joyful, genuine portraits of the subjects I photograph, and I will do the same for you.

Bring your A-game, the disposition to be guided through the entire session and I know you will light up the camera! The most common thing I hear from clients before portrait sessions is this: because of a bad experience in the past, they don't like taking photos or don't feel like they'll be good at it.

By the time the session is over, though, most families can't believe how fast it went and just how much fun they had!

SCHEDULING YOUR SESSION

I PHOTOGRAPH PORTRAIT SESSIONS THE SAME WAY I LIKE TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED MYSELF!

Outdoors, in natural light, because I love images that are clean, bright, fresh and timeless. Images that look and feel like you! That's why I begin all of my sessions 1-2 hours before the scheduled sunset -- during the magical "golden hour" -- when the light in the sky is the softest, dreamiest and most flattering.

I can help you scheduling the best time for your session depending on the time of the year and the location of the shoot. When scheduling your date, it's important to remember that the sun sets much earlier during the colder months of the year and much later during the warmer months, so make sure to factor that in.

My weekends fill up fast and far in advance, but my weekdays are much more flexible. So if you'd like to do your session sooner rather than later, scheduling mid-week is the way to go!

Are you an early riser? We can do a sunrise session! Just as the sunset, sunrise sessions also provide beautiful, natural glow to the images, and we have a higher chance to have the location just for you (especially if you're thinking of a beach session during the summer!)





PLANNING YOUR TIME

ALLOW YOURSELF MORE TIME
THAN YOU THINK YOU'LL NEED!

When you're planning "getting ready" time before your session (scheduling your hair, makeup, etc.) please give yourself a lot more time than you think you'll need. Make sure to account for things like traffic, getting lost and parking, so you can prevent unnecessary stress, arrive a few minutes early to your session and be ready to start on time.

I'm only able to shoot when light is still in the sky, so we'll want to take advantage of every minute we have together before the sun goes down!



CHOOSING THE LOCATION

THE BEACH? A MANSION? THE PARK?

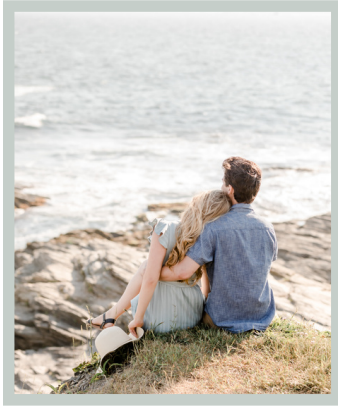
The location of your portrait session is completely up to you! As you'll see throughout this guide, most of my clients love showcasing the natural beauty of our home state. For most of my sessions, outdoor, open-air environments are always my first choice. I love shooting in wide-open natural spaces because the light is divine, especially during golden hour. There are great options all around the state, so even if you've never seen me photograph in a specific place before, I'm always up for exploring a new spot together!

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

I encourage you to brainstorm unique places that you might have special access to that most people don't. For example, maybe you (or someone you know) have access to an amazing location that would otherwise be off-limits, like a beautiful private estate, family ranch, exclusive country club or luxury resort. You'll be surprised with what you come up with! If something seems out of reach, just remember: you never know until you ask!



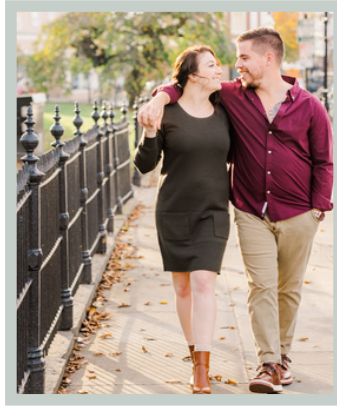
LOCATION IDEAS



OCEAN

Our beautiful Ocean State is full of stunning beaches! Some of my favorite are Misquamicut Beach, Narragansett Beach, and India Point Park.

Chris and Grace chose Beavertail Park* for their session.



CITY

Whether you want cross over the bridge to have your session in Newport* like Erin and Ryan did, in downtown Providence or at the quaint Wickford Village, you won't go wrong! Cities and towns allow for tons of different backgrounds and variety.



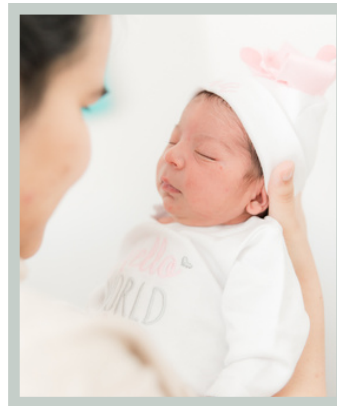
PARK

The Crocker Family session was at the Browning Mill Pond Park which gives you pond and park backdrops all-in-one. But you can also choose Roger Williams Park, Colt State Park*, Purgatory Chasm* in MA, or any other beautiful RI/MA/CT park... I'm in for the adventure!



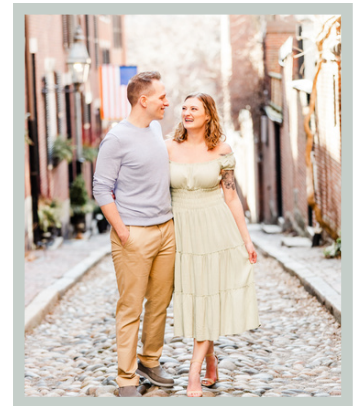
MUSEUM

We are lucky to have beautiful mansions and museums in RI that would give you amazing backgrounds for your senior portraits! Karissa's session was at the Blithewold Mansion*, and because I have a photographer's pass, you don't have to pay an entrance fee!



HOME

Would you rather have your session in the comfort of your own home? I can do that! Some families prefer to capture their milestones at their homes to preserve the sweet memories of their growing family.



ANYWHERE!

Lauren and Joey wanted a Boston session when they came to visit. For an extra fee I can travel anywhere you'd like!

*Require additional travel fee.



A LOCATION BEYOND?

Sure thing!

Your portrait session includes my travel time anywhere within 30 miles of Hope Valley, Rhode Island, but if you'd like to go somewhere else, I'm up for the adventure! I

f you'd like to shoot outside of the city, or in Massachusetts or Connecticut, for example, there will be a travel fee to account for the extra hours of drive time there and back, the time required beforehand for me to scout locations and the overall longer session time.

For destination sessions, I allow three hours before sunset (instead of two) so we have enough time to drive to multiple scenic spots.



NUMBER OF OUTFITS:

WONDERING HOW MANY OUTFITS YOU SHOULD PLAN? I GOT YOU COVERED!

Changing outfits during a session always takes more time than my clients expect, so in order to maximize shooting time and give you the highest number of photos possible, I recommend the number of outfits (as follows) to keep stress low and the number of photos in your final gallery high:

FULL-LENGTH SESSION (60-90 MIN):
2-3 OUTFITS

REGULAR SESSION (45 MIN):
1 OUTFIT

STYLING YOUR SESSION

IF YOU WANT YOUR PORTRAIT SESSION TO LOOK A LITTLE MORE EDITORIAL, THEN PLAN YOUR OUTFIT CHOICES!

The most important thing to remember is that you want your portrait session to feel like you! However, there's no such thing as "too dressed up" when it comes to your senior session, so don't be afraid to have some fun!

You don't have to spend a lot to feel like a million bucks. There are websites like Lulus, Venus, and Shein that sell beautiful dresses and outfits at amazing prices. But you can also shop in your own closet and find something that speaks to you and that reflects your personality. Unsure? Bring them all! I can help you choose and I always carry my pop-up tent so there's no need to change in your car.

Want to add a wow factor? Fresh flowers, a picnic and other unique props will do it!

SKIP THE SPRAY TAN!

Although it might seem counter-intuitive, I recommend that you do not get a spray tan before your session (or even a few days prior) because it tends to photograph orange even when it's applied subtly and by a professional. Your actual skin tone will photograph most beautifully.





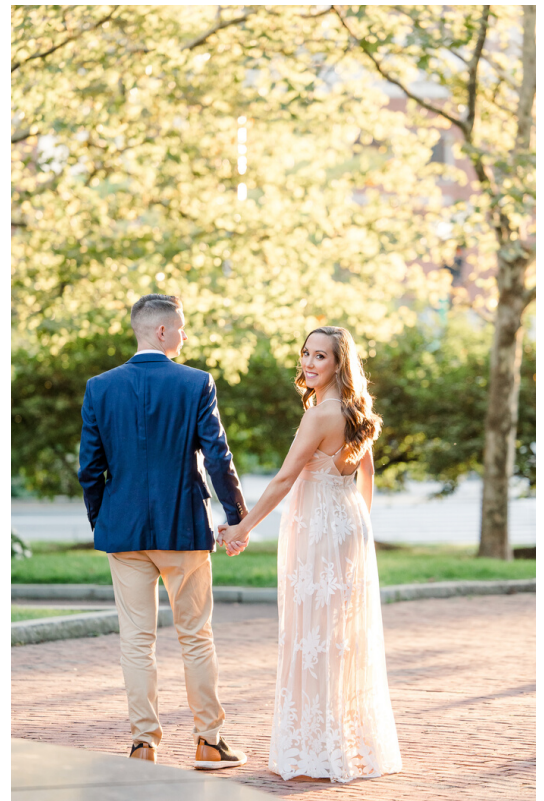
GO PRO!

HAIR AND MAKE-UP

It looks amazing on camera and removes the stress of getting ready on your own. You'll have these photos forever, so this is the time to pamper yourself!

Whether it's lash extensions or blown out hair, professional hair and makeup will give you an extra boost of confidence in front of the camera, and it always photographs like a dream. If you're working with a makeup artist, have her apply your makeup in natural light (if possible) so that it looks fresh and not too heavy. Plus, that's the type of light we'll be shooting in, so it'll give you the best expectation of how it will translate on camera.

Most of my clients feel like their makeup is "too much" at first, since it's more than they would wear on a normal day, so if you feel that way at the beginning, don't worry! Good makeup artists know how to get it just right for the camera — and my clients always love the final result.



SAY YES TO THE DRESS!

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!

I recommend choosing long, flowy dresses or skirts because they're flattering on all body types, look amazing on camera and bring extra movement and dimension to your photos. Maxi (or floor length) skirts and dresses will give us the best "twirl factor," add more romance to your walking photos and look especially gorgeous when juxtaposed with nature, like the desert, forest, fields or beach.

Cute, shorter cocktail-length dresses or midi skirts photograph beautifully as well. My clients who choose to bring two dresses will sometimes choose one of each!

FLATTERING YOUR FEATURES

In my experience, every woman (regardless of her size or shape) has an area of her body that she's self-conscious about. Recognizing the areas you're self-conscious about when selecting your outfits is key.

Choosing flattering silhouettes and colors that complement 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. If your dress has shorter sleeves (or no sleeves) consider bringing a cute jacket, blazer, cardigan or pashmina to incorporate into your look. Skinny straps or strapless dresses have the opposite effect on arms on camera. For most women, skinny straps actually make arms look BIGGER. So I recommend avoiding those whenever possible if your goal is slimmer-looking arms.

If it's colder outside, I suggest bringing a warm coat (the longer, the better!) to wear when we're not shooting so you don't freeze in your dress.



THE SHOES

For shoes, keep in mind that heels elongate women's legs and force constant tension in the calves -- which makes them look more toned. Closed-toed heels, in particular, look great on camera because they carry out the line of your leg all the way down to your toe. You can never go wrong with a pair of neutral pumps! 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 toes show. If your shoes don't show at all in the dress you've selected, you could always choose neutral ballet flats to make your session more comfortable. Lastly, make sure to bring a pair of flats/flip flops to wear when moving from place to place. Your feet will thank you later!

Mixing all The Colors



The goal for coordinating a family's outfits is to visually break up the colors and shades so that you're not all wearing the same color on top and bottom (like everyone in blue jeans with white shirts). The more you can mix it up, the better! I encourage you to think about planning each outfit with "dominant colors" and "accent colors" in mind. A dominant color is the color that you see the most in an outfit, while an accent has a smaller piece of visual real estate. When you're planning each family member's outfit, if you can aim for each person to have a different dominant color, and then tie in and vary the accent colors, it'll look great all together. For example, if you're wearing a blush dress, soft blue earrings and nude heels (blush being your dominant color), then your spouse could wear a navy coat with a white button-down and gray pants, paired with brown leather shoes and maybe even a blush pocket square (making navy his dominant color). Your daughter could wear a soft blue top with a white tulle

skirt (making a soft blue her dominant color) while your son could wear light beige pants with navy suspenders and a white button down (making white his dominant color).



Mixing all the Colors (cont'd)



Now each person has their own dominant color while still incorporating a few touches of the other colors that will pull all the looks together. This will visually break up all the colors and highlight each person and their individual personality. Most of my moms choose their dress first, and then build the rest of the family's outfits based on that.

If you have multiple children, don't feel like you need to put them all in the same type of outfit. For example, if one of your daughters wears a dress and flats, the other can wear a skirt and boots, if that's more of her style. If one of your sons wears a bowtie, the other can wear suspenders. Mixing up the wardrobe pieces will bring even more visual interest to the photos.

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 palette and wardrobe pieces coordinate, but don't actually "match." In fact, I recommend that you avoid thinking about "matching," and instead think about what "fits" together. This will create more visual interest, and allow each personality to shine through!



FASHION TIPS



Solid colors will help keep the attention where it belongs, whereas pinstripes or plaid patterns tend to distract the eye, so stay away from too strong of prints, avoid logos and opt for solids instead. Avoid heavy patterns, plaids or bright bold colors as they can cast weird shadows on the skin that cannot be edited out

TOPS & BOTTOMS

The same way that a dress is the most flattering silhouette for the female body, a blazer, sport coat or jacket has the same flattering effect for men. You can't go wrong with a dress shirt, slacks and a blazer. Long sleeves are more flattering than short sleeves on men, so I'd recommend steering clear of t-shirts or polos, and instead opting for a long-sleeve button down. The other benefit to long sleeves is we can roll the sleeves up for a slightly more casual look, which gives you two looks with one shirt.

COLORS

For colors, I recommend neutrals and soft. When selecting your pieces, I recommend choosing a different "weight" for the pants and coat. So for example, navy pants (darker) and a heather gray blazer (lighter). Or gray pants (darker) with a soft powder blue shirt (lighter).

SUITS

When selecting an outfit for photos, the most important part isn't the price. It's the fit. It's important to have a jacket that fits snugly (but not too tight), and pants that are the correct length and don't have too many breaks. Just like high heels make us look taller than we are, bunched up fabric stacked on top of the shoes makes us look physically shorter than we really are.





PREPPING YOUR LITTLE ONES

Setting expectations before the session is the key to great photos and happy kids!

Before your session, pack a bag with water and your kids' favorite snacks. If they're too young to follow directions, bring any objects that you think might help me get their attention (like small toys or stuffed animals) when it's time for them to look at the camera. If your little ones are old enough to understand you, it's a good idea to prepare them for what's to come before the session starts.

Explain how much the photos mean to you so they know to be on their best behavior. A lot of families pick something fun to do -- as a treat after the session -- if their kiddos are good listeners. Like dinner at their favorite pizza place or an ice cream cone. I will also have little prizes for them!

It also helps if your kids' bellies are full and they've had some good rest before the session. After you do your best to prepare them, give yourself (and them) some grace! I have a lot of experience working with kids (including my own), so if they're "in a mood" or aren't cooperating perfectly for some reason, rest assured that I'm not judging you (or them).

So even if things don't go exactly as planned or as you'd hoped in terms of your kids' behavior, one day, you'll be so glad you took these photos!



AFTER YOUR SESSION

WHAT'S THE TIMELINE LIKE?



PROOF GALLERY

I will have your proof gallery ready for viewing within 7 days of your session

1 WEEK



REVEAL SESSION

We'll set up a virtual 30-min appointment for you to see your photos and place your order

2 WEEKS



DELIVERY OF ART

Within 2 weeks of the reveal, you'll receive your prints or wall art!

4 WEEKS



I don't even know where to start! Gloria was absolutely amazing from the moment that I contacted her to book. She made both myself and my husband feel comfortable and confident throughout our session. She was AMAZING with our pups and so very patient. Not only was our session a WONDERFUL experience, the pictures are more than I could have ever hoped- she captured our family PERFECTLY!
Brittany & Brandon



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO CAN I INCLUDE IN MY SESSION?

Anyone you'd like... really! You can bring extended families, significant others, pets, and even best friends! For sessions of 45-min I'd recommend no more than 5 people. If you want an extended family session then the right session would be 60-minutes or longer.

I'M VERY SHY. WILL MY PHOTOS TURN OUT OK?

Unless you've modeled professionally, you're probably going to feel awkward in front of the camera. Heck, I take photos for a living and I even feel like a deer in the headlights when I'm in front of the camera.

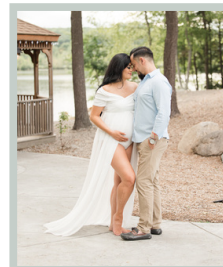
You're going to feel awkward the first five minutes, but as the session goes on and I coach you from beginning to end, you'll find that being photographed can actually be fun. I will make you feel confident and I promise you you'll love your photos!

WHAT IF IT RAINS?

I am constantly monitoring the weather, and if the forecast calls for rain and our session is outdoors, we'll reschedule for another time without any additional fee.

DO YOU PHOTOSHOP MY PHOTOS?

My rule of thumb is: if it goes away in two weeks, I'll edit it out! Skin blemishes like visible pimples will be edited, but not permanent scars, moles, etc. I won't photoshop dirty or wrinkly clothes either. I will only apply additional edits to purchased images.



One Last Note



I know I just gave you A LOT to think about! Don't panic :) Just take it one step at a time. I provided a Portrait Session Checklist for you on the next page to help you stay organized and on top of things! But if you have any questions at any point, please know I'm here for you! If you love two locations but can't make up your mind, no worries! I can help with that, too. If you need a recommendation of any kind, I'm on it! Remember, I'm just one email away :)

At the end of the day, though, the location you choose and the outfits you wear won't matter nearly as much as the fun we have together and the memories you make. The style choices you make will definitely enhance your photos, but the most important accessory to bring with you is joyfulness -- which is the one thing that makes the biggest difference in your photos anyways. You don't need to have prior experience in front of the camera. Just show up with a smile and I'll take care of the rest :) I'm so excited! See you soon!

XO,
Gloria

Portrait Session

CHECKLIST

- Choose your location and let me know
- Schedule hair and makeup appointments (totally optional!)
- Review Style Guide for outfit inspiration
- Choose your outfits (drop off at dry cleaner if needed!)
- Get your nails done (also optional)
- Pack a bag with:
 - Flats or flip-flops for walking between photo spots
 - Extra outfits (including shoes and accessories)
 - Touch-up makeup
 - Props, sports equipment and/or jersey
 - Water bottle
 - Coat or cover-up (for colder sessions)
 - Snacks for little ones
 - Small eye-catching toys to grab little kids' attention

