ELIZABETH THOMPSON
PHOTOGRAPHY

Newborn and Maternity Custom Photography Guide

Making Memories Last a Lifetime!

Reviews

INP
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION NEWBORN PHOTOGRAPHERS

PPA
Professional Photographers of America

march of dimes
Best Of Clarksville
Best Photographer

Thank You!

I am a full time licensed and insured professional photographer and I LOVE what I do!!! You are the reason I get to do what I love, and your business is important to me. I want to make your experience as wonderful and unique as possible.

I have created this easy to use in depth, step-by-step guide, so you know what to expect upfront, and for you to refer back to throughout our time working together. It is essential that you read the entire guide prior to booking your session. I am just one person and generally working with 40-65 active clients at one time, so this guide answers almost any question you could have about working with me. I have anticipated your questions and have created PDF's to help you throughout the process. If you lose this guide, you can find it on the upper right had corner of my blog.

This guide helps me run my business efficiently, and gives you all the information you need for your custom photography experience. Communication hours are Monday – Thursday 10am to 4pm. My standard response time is 24-48 business hours. Email is always the easiest form of communication for me. Please remember my family is my top priority after business hours.

Thank you for choosing ETP for your custom photography needs!!

Communication Hours Monday – Thursday 10am to 4pm

24-48 Business Hours Response Time

931-338-6274

3412 Sango Crossing Clarksville TN 37043

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www.ElizabethThompsonPhotography.com

Find Us

Blog

Session Options

Maternity

Newborn

Maternity & Newborn Combination

Mommy and Me

Newborn + Mommy & Me Combination

Pregnancy or Gender Announcement Add On

Specialty Collection Sessions

New Life Journey

First Year of Life

First Year of Life + Maternity

Session Fees

Session Fees are $200 and include my time and talent for your 1-2 hour standard session or 2-3 hour newborn session, password protected online gallery and basic editing.

Combination Sessions discount your second session by $50. They also allow you to combine both sessions into one print collection, even all digital files, if you select a print collection that includes digital images. You are required to wait until after your second session to order your print collection to combine both sessions into one print collection.

Print Collections are purchased separately from your session fee and begin at $200.

Link to Print Collections

Scheduling and Expectations

If you have anything specific in mind, please let me know prior to booking your session, to ensure I can accommodate your request. I hope you have contacted me because you love my photographic style. I know what works and what does not work with how I shoot.

You are required to fill out ETP's Maternity / Newborn Portrait Agreement (digital form) to tentatively book your session. Your $50 deposit is due within one week of receiving your tentative session date, to secure your session. The deposit is nonrefundable. You my pay your deposit via Paypal or personal check made out to

Elizabeth Thompson Photography

and mailed to

3412 Sango Crossing Clarksville TN 37043

Maternity / Newborn Portrait Agreement

Paypal Deposit Link

Maternity Sessions

Please fill out ETP's Maternity Questionnaire (digital form) to help me get an idea of the type of pregnancy session you are looking for. I like to get to know a little about you to plan your session. If you are shorter in stature, we will likely need to schedule your session for the beginning of your eight month or earlier. We want to shoot when you have a fully baby belly, but before you reach your miserable point. If you are taller, we might have to wait until very close to your due date. First time mothers-to-be generally show later in their pregnancy as well.

We can shoot outdoors, in the studio, or a combination of both. If the weather is decent, I prefer to shoot completely outdoors, with the exception of partially nude pregnancy photos. We can include family members or just document your baby belly.

I have a large assortment of maternity gowns, fabrics, vintage robes, and bandeau tops. You will need a strapless bra, and nude panties for most of my wardrobe options.

Link to Maternity Wardrobe Options

Maternity Sessions...

I suggest 2-3 total wardrobe changes for your 1-2 hour session. That includes gowns and fabrics I offer. You will want at least one regular clothing option for photos with your loved ones. Tops and dresses that are fitted both above and below your belly are best. Wear clothing that makes you feel comfortable and that you can move around in. I generally have everyone sit or lay on the ground often during your session. Color coordinate your outfits, but do not get too matchy matchy. Gone are the days of kakis and black shirts or jeans and white tops. We want you to look like the most stylish version of yourself. Layers and accessories go a long way. Natural colors always work and are timeless. Try to avoid neon or super trendy colors. Remember to plan your outfit from head to toe. Shoes should look great and be functional for the locations we are shooting at. That said, I love bare feet too. If we are shooting at or by a creek, bring some flip-flops that you don't mind getting wet. If we are shooting in a field, you will want full tennis shoes or boots. Just remember to dress for the weather. I cannot stress enough how being uncomfortable in what you are wearing can ruin a session. Personally, I think wardrobe ideas are the absolute best part of Pinterest!

Link to Pinterest Wardrobe Board

Preparing for Your Session

Get everyone prepared for our session. Tell the kiddos what will be expected of them and remember we want to have fun. Threats are usually negative and can cause more tension than good. I prefer bribery. Ice cream after a session is ALWAYS a good idea! Please do not offer treats during the session. All treats should remain packed away until after your session. Bribery can be a great incentive for difficult or reluctant significant others as well.

I do not get a great deal of subjects who are completely comfortable in front of the camera. Sometimes I need to build a rapport to get beautiful natural poses. Please allow me to work with your children one on one without a great deal of help, unless I ask for it. Generally I get much better results when I am able to interact with your children on their level, rather than reprimanding parents. Of course we want your children to behave and drastic behavior should be addressed i.e. kicking or biting, but I do not expect them to be perfect, and I want them to have fun too. Spankings lead to tears, which lead to unhappy photos.

I will call you a few days prior to your session, just to make sure you do not have any questions and to finalize times and locations. Don't forget to remind me if you have anything highly specific in mind.

Your Maternity Session

Let's remember to have fun. My style is a modern twist on classic portraiture. I generally aim to get a least one traditionally posed classic shot, but more than anything I want to capture the love that embodies your family. I love moments kissing, hugging, and holding hands. I don't even have you look at the camera during half your session.

All remaining session fees are due the day of your session. I prefer check or cash. I accept credit cards with TN 9.25% tax added. Please make checks payable to: Elizabeth Thompson Photography.

Newborn Session

Most newborn sessions take place within the fist 10 days of life and take 2-3 hours. When you secure your session, I give you a tentative session date. If your little one comes early or late we will adjust this date, so please keep me informed. I have found that days 4-6 are generally fantastic, and what I strive for.

Newborn Session...

I have everything needed for your newborn session. You can arrive with baby in hand, and I will take care of you. You are welcome to bring anything that is specific to you and your family i.e. military props or dad's cowboy hat. I just ask that you discuss your ideas with me prior to your session and be sure to include this information in your Newborn Questionnaire (Link)

I'm happy to help you find the right props to bring for something I do not offer on hand. Not everything fits my style of newborn photography. I hope you have faith in my work and trust me as an artist to plan a beautiful session for your precious angel. I strive to make all sessions unique and put a great deal of planning into all my sessions prior to your arrival. If you would like to start a family tradition or purchase a special outfit for your little one's session to pass one to future generations, I have a few fabulous venders who specialize in outfits specially made for newborn photography. Link to Venders I LOVE! You are responsible for communicating any special requests prior to booking your session and your newborn questionnaire.

Preparing For Your Newborn Session

You will receive a newborn prep guide to help you prepare for your newborn session. Please review the prep guide again a day prior to your session. I cannot stress how important it is for you to follow the instructions in the prep-guide!!

Link to Newborn Prep Book

Multiples and Preemies

If you are having multiples, you have come to the right place. I bring in an assistant who is highly skilled in working with newborns to help out during our session. It is important to book your session early when you are expecting multiples, because of the extra planning and coordinating necessary for sessions with more than one newborn. I know that multiples and premature babies are often in the hospital a bit longer, so early newborn sessions are often impossible. Our window of opportunity is often a bit longer for preemies because they often remain in their sleepy stage a little longer. We can work tighter to determine the best time for your session. That said, if you go to term (36+ weeks) with twins and have the standard 2-5 day hospital stay, we want to get them in within the first 10 days of life, if at all possible.

Sibling Shots

First off, I love sibling shots, and have a pretty great track record with them as well. That said, if your older children are not at an age where they can communicate or take direction, it is highly unlikely I will be able to get them to understand what I'm asking for. Generally 2 year olds and up are just fine. It is the 18-23 month olds that often do not understand what we are asking them to do. That does not mean we cannot try. I'm quite patient. We will just want to coordinate when we bring siblings to the studio. I always start my sessions with my blanket shots. This is a time where I get to know baby and to settle him or her in. We can go straight to sibling shots directly following the blanket shots and then have big brother or sister leave, or we can coordinate to have siblings in the studio for the last 40 minutes of the session. I'm flexible. It is just too hard for little ones to sit still for a 2-3 hour session, and they can be distracting to both baby and myself.

Family Shots

I can accommodate family shots, but my space is limited, therefore limiting variety. I'm not a huge fan of posed studio shots, but what you see below is what I can offer. I do not shoot any non-newborn family sessions in studio.

The Studio

I have a great deal of experience with little ones, and have my craft down to a science. My studio is comfortable but warm, quiet, and soothing. I use soothing scents and sounds for baby's comfort and provide warm unscented sensitive wipes. My studio is in a separate area of my home and it is cozy. I can accommodate up to three adults. I have an extensive prop collection that I'm always adding to. I like to make all sessions unique, but if there is something you are particularly fond of i.e. chevrons, furry rug shots, a specific prop, wraps or suspender pants, please include that in your newborn questionnaire. More importantly, if there is something you really dislike for whatever reason, I won't be offended, just let me know prior to your session. Just a tidbit about me, I make the majority of my own newborn props. I love to sew, crochet and craft. I really do eat sleep and dream newborn photography. Your little ones bring great joy to my life and I adore them all!

Directions

Newborn Registry

I cannot think of a better gift than lasting memories! Add us to your baby shower registry, allowing friends and family to contribute to your custom newborn and maternity photography!

Link to Newborn Registry Purchashing Page

Mommy and Me Sessions

If you are like the majority of my clients, you will want photos with your precious little love, but not necessarily within the 10 day newborn session window. I have created "Mommy and Me" sessions for children up to 3 years of age, but more specifically to document the bound between your and your little one after you have had a little time to heal. I recommend the 8-12 weeks of age range. If you book your mommy and me session with your newborn session within 12 weeks of your newborn session, you can receive combination discounts. These sessions are meant to document the bond you share with our child. These moments go by in the blink of an eye. You and your child will appreciate these beautiful images for years to come.

New Life Journey Collection

This collection is specifically designed to document and preserve your little one's new life journey through 8 weeks of age. Maternity, Newborn, and Mommy and Me sessions are included in this collection. You will receive all processed images from each session on USB flash drive after your last session, with print release and more.

Link to New life Journey Collection Options

First Year of Life Collection

The first year of life baby plan documents your little one's journey from newborn to their first birthday or maternity through first birthday. You will receive all processed gallery images from each session on USB flash drive after your last session with print release.

Link to First Year of Life Collections Options

Specialty Products

After Your Session

Your photos will be processed and placed in an online, password-protected gallery for review within 1-3 weeks of your session. I'm usually working right around a two-week turnaround. This may be extended during holidays or due to illness, but I always work as quickly as I can. I hope you are excited to see the images from your session, but please remember I'm just one person. I have created deadlines to help walk you through this process and to manage expectations.

I also ask that you respect my communication hours. I'm constantly striving for a great work / life balance. Please understand that I have to leave work and focus on my family just like you. Email is always the easiest form of communication for me. I always want to have an open line of communication with my clients. I just ask that keep those lines open during my normal business hours. Side note, I do not respond to texts, unless it is regarding your session the day of shooting.

Selecting Your Print Collection & Your Favorites for Retouching

After you receive your gallery you will need to select your print collection and your favorite images for retouching. Each collection states the number of full retouched images included i.e. 10, 15, 20.

The images you "favorite" should be the images you plan to print. Many photos will look pretty great after the processing / initial edit has been completed, but there are some limitations to my initial post processing. If an image is lacking an area of blanket or hardwood floor for example, or there is an obstruction like a sign in the background, these things are corrected in a full retouch. Most of all retouching helps me perfect images for the best quality prints. The images I have already retouched for you are included in the number of retouched images, unless you absolutely do not like the image I retouched and are not ordering it. If you add any additional images, the fee is $10 per image and you must notify me with a written request. After you share your "favorites" with me, I will complete your retouch request generally within 2 weeks. This can be extended during busy seasons, holidays, or due to extenuating circumstances i.e illness. After your retouch request has been completed, I will add them to the end of your online gallery. Please note you can order ANY image from your online gallery, not just retouched images.

Please see my "How to Favorite and Share" PDF for further instructions

Before - SOOC

After Processing

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Final Image

Ordering Your Collection

All first time orders are placed directly though me, not the online gallery site. Your initial order must be placed within 2 months of your session date, or your photos will be archived onto an external hard drive. There is a $45 archive fee for retrieving your images after the 2 – month deadline. Images are not guaranteed to be available longer than 3 months from your session date.

Please see my "How to Order" PDF for further instructions

Additional Orders

After you have placed your initial order directly through me, I will open your gallery for online ordering. These orders are directly through partner labs. I am not the point of contact for an incorrect order. You and your family are welcome to place additional orders directly through the online gallery or me.

Your gallery is guaranteed for 2 months.

Feedback

Your reviews are absolutely pivotal to keeping my business strong. I need and appreciate your support. Google reviews can be placed through my Google Places Page! If you are not fully satisfied with any aspect of your experience, please give me an opportunity to correct the issue.

Please see my "How to Write a Google Review" PDF