



A CLIENT PREPARATION GUIDE

Ready for Your Close-Up

25 thoughtful ways to feel comfortable, confident, and fully prepared for your photo shoot.

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YOUR MEMORIES, HELD WITH CARE

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You do not need to know what to do in front of a camera.

That is my job.

Most people arrive at a photo shoot wondering where to place their hands, how to stand, whether their smile looks natural, or if they chose the right outfit. You are not alone, and you are not expected to arrive knowing how to pose.

I will guide you through the entire experience with clear, gentle direction. This guide simply helps you take care of the details beforehand so you can arrive feeling calm, look like yourself, and enjoy the moment.

Use what is helpful, leave what is not, and remember: connection will always matter more than perfection.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO BRING

Your presence, your personality, and your story.

Everything else can be adjusted. The real moments cannot be manufactured.

Start with intention

01

Begin with your purpose

Think about where the photographs will live and how you want them to feel. A clear purpose helps guide the location, clothing, energy, and final image selection.

02

Share your vision

Tell your photographer what you love, what makes you nervous, and which features or relationships matter most. Inspiration images are welcome as direction, not poses you must copy.

03

Confirm the details early

Review the date, start time, location, parking, session length, and contact information several days before your shoot.

Dress with confidence

04

Choose clothing that feels like you

Wear something that fits well, feels comfortable, and reflects your personality. Confidence photographs better than an outfit that feels like a costume.

05

Coordinate, do not perfectly match

For couples and groups, choose two or three complementary colors and vary the shades and textures. Avoid putting everyone in the exact same outfit.

06

Let one outfit lead

Choose one person's outfit first, then build the remaining looks around its colors and level of formality. This makes group styling much easier.

07

Keep patterns intentional

Small checks and tight stripes can distract on camera. If someone wears a bold pattern, let the other outfits stay simpler so the group remains balanced.

08

Pay attention to fit

Try on every complete outfit before the session. Sit, stand, bend, and raise your arms to make sure nothing pulls, gaps, slips, or needs constant adjusting.

09

Prepare from head to toe

Shoes, socks, belts, jewelry, and undergarments all matter. Select pieces that work with the outfit and will not show unexpectedly.

10

Use accessories with restraint

A meaningful necklace, hat, jacket, scarf, or pair of glasses can add personality. Too many competing accessories can pull attention away from your face.

Feel polished, not overdone

11

Plan grooming ahead

Schedule haircuts, color, waxing, facials, and other treatments early enough for you to feel settled and comfortable on the day of the shoot.

12

Keep skin care familiar

Drink water and follow your normal skin-care routine. Avoid experimenting with new products or treatments immediately before the session.

13

Keep makeup camera-ready

Choose a polished version of your usual look. Even skin, defined eyes, and a lip color photograph beautifully. Bring powder and lip color for touch-ups.

14

Neaten hands and nails

Hands often appear near faces, jewelry, flowers, products, and loved ones. Clean, moisturized hands and tidy nails make close-up photographs feel finished.

15

Gather meaningful items

Bring only props that tell your story, such as a family heirloom, instrument, book, product, bouquet, or favorite toy. Meaning matters more than quantity.

Bring comfort and meaning

16

Pack a small session kit

Include water, tissues, a lint roller, safety pins, blotting powder, lip color, a comb or brush, comfortable shoes, and any needed medications.

17

Prepare children with simple language

Tell children you are going to spend time together and take pictures. Avoid asking them to perform or practice a smile. A favorite snack or comfort item can help.

18

Plan for the weather and location

Check the forecast and think about the setting before you leave. Bring a layer, umbrella, comfortable walking shoes, or other practical items you may need between photographs without changing your finished look.

Protect your peace

19

Protect the night before

Lay out clothing, steam garments, pack your bag, check directions, charge your phone, and get as much rest as you can.

20

Eat and hydrate

Have a light meal and drink water before the session. Hunger, dehydration, and too much alcohol can affect your comfort, energy, and complexion.

21

Arrive ready and on time

Build in time for traffic, parking, and final touch-ups. Arriving ten minutes early gives you space to breathe instead of carrying stress into the photographs.

22

Empty your pockets

Remove phones, keys, wallets, hair ties, and anything else that creates visible bulges. Check wrists for items you do not want in the final images.

Trust the experience

23

Let your photographer direct you

You do not need to know how to pose. Follow the small adjustments to your feet, hands, shoulders, and chin. The direction is designed to help you look natural.

24

Move, breathe, and connect

Some of the best images happen between poses. Walk, laugh, talk, touch, and look at the people you love. Slow breathing will soften your shoulders and expression.

25

Release the need for perfection

Your job is to be present, not flawless. Trust the process, allow genuine moments to unfold, and remember that the goal is to preserve how this season of life feels.