

## Portrait & Clothing Guide

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### Color, Tone, and Style

While the goal of a portrait is to direct the viewer's attention to the face, we also love to capture your personality!

Good clothing choices allow the face to be the focus of the portrait. Here are some basic suggestions:

- Bold stripes, plaids, and loud patterns generally do not photograph well since they can create bizarre optical illusions.
- Vibrant colors can be distracting in large groups, however complementary vibrant colors can work well for a couple.
- Try to find colors that contrast to your skin tone, versus match your skin tone.
- Something to keep in mind... white clothing tends to add weight in photos, while darker or richer shades of color are more flattering and slimming.
- If more than one person is being photographed, clothing should be in the same tonal ranges and style (i.e. dressy/casual) without being "matchy-matchy". Complementary shades add depth to your portraits while matching colors give a flat look to your group.
- Light and dark tones together create visual confusion, so we recommend trying to stay in the same tonal range.
- Earth tones mix well with other earth tones. Bright colors blend well with other bright colors. Try to stay in the same tonal family (think about your old box of Crayola crayons).

### Clothing Style and Cuts

Simple garments tend to photograph best. However, if you have a favorite clothing item that exemplifies your personality, then feel free to ask us about it! These guidelines are a starting point, not a steadfast rule!

- Turtle necks and V-necks are flattering provided that neither is exaggerated in style.
- Keep in mind that very wide or very deep V-necks expose more skin to the lens of our cameras.
- Bulky cowl neck sweaters can hide the neck. Remember: the lines of the neck are the gateway to the face!
- Long sleeves or 3/4 sleeves are a great choice. Bare upper arms can appear large in photos as you wrap your arms around your loved one. Bare skin can also distract from your beautiful face.
- Avoid strapless or spaghetti strap clothing, unless of course it's your wedding dress... then we'll let it slide ;-)
- Make certain that shoes are in keeping with the visual look of your portraits. We LOVE fabulous shoes. Sass it up!
- Skirts and dresses should cover the knee. Refer to the bare upper arms point above. However, if you feel comfortable, show 'em. This one is your call!
- Choose flowy fabrics over tight, binding fabrics. Clingy fabric can accentuate imperfections (we all have them!).

### Accessories

Let's capture some of your personality!

We love to incorporate accessories that echo your personality:

- If you're a hat person, bring one along!
- Dramatic fun jewelry can add accent and personality. Again, if in doubt, bring it along and we'll play stylist for you!
- Scarves can be fun as well as jackets and layers. It can really help us mix up the look of your portrait series!
- Sassy shoes are ALWAYS a hit with us!

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### ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS:

We suggest bringing at least two outfits to your engagement session. When in doubt, bring extra clothing and we will help you select the items that work best together. If possible, bring a garment bag for clothing to make it easier to transport during our shoot since we tend to move around quite a bit!

Typically we will do one clothing change during the session. It is best to bring along one casual outfit and one more formal outfit. By photographing you in two outfits with different tones and styles we are able to create different moods and a greater variety of images to choose from. Your secondary outfit can be more casual, however, just be sure it's in a different tonal range than the first outfit. Again, it is **CRUCIAL** to not be completely "matchy matchy"!

### A FEW VANITY SUGGESTIONS:

- Bring chapstick/lipstick/gloss so lips do not appear dry.
- It's also handy to have a small compact mirror and make-up for touch up.
- We will typically break for 10 minutes to allow for a clothing change. This is great opportunity to do make-up and hair touch-ups.

### FAMILY SESSIONS:

Family portraits will typically involve a single outfit. We suggest the casual southern California approach and wear something that says "YOU!"—something which is comfortable and allows free movement. Jeans and coordinated color tones are a great choice. Again, we recommend not being "matchy matchy", but instead, aim to complement each other!

If you have small children, please bring a favorite toy or small squeaky item that will grab attention, help with their eye direction, and bring a smile to their face. It's also good to have juice boxes or special snacks on hand to keep them happy and engaged!

If you have furry children with tails, please bring poop bags, because, you know, that's gross!

### OTHER HANDY SUGGESTIONS:

- Bring lots of quarters for parking if your session is in an urban area. Our sessions typically run 60-90 minutes (more for engagement sessions).
- It's a good idea to have an extra layer of warmth on hand if we're going to be out near dusk or down near the water. The weather can change very quickly in San Diego in the early evening hours.
- We like to spend time with our clients and provide a personal experience. Please do not plan any of the following activities immediately after your session: tee time, teeth cleaning, football game, surgery, skydiving appointment, HEROES marathon, etc, etc (we think you get the idea). Nothing spoils for the fun for everyone else like having one person checking their watch every ten minutes.