



ESQUIRE PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOSHOOT TIPS/MISCELANEOUS INFO

What can you expect the day of the shoot?

When possible, Esquire Photography will have an assistant who will help orchestrate the photo shoot, but be prepared to be involved in some aspects other than posing. If my assistant isn't available, I recommend having a family member or friend there to help you out with the shoot. Your child will respond to them more naturally and it will be a great help to you have someone else help out when the whole family has to be in the picture at the same time.

You may be asked to help animate a family member to make their smile more natural, or hold a scrim to block light from falling on a subject, or other miscellaneous tasks (a little bit of client participation). If you have small children, we understand that we may need to take breaks for feeding, changing or a change of scenery during this photo shoot. Don't worry because we have seen just about every scenario that can happen when babies and small children are involved, so no need to feel uncomfortable during this session. Part of the benefit of having Esquire Photography come to you is so that your session will be relaxed and make everyone feel more comfortable.

We recommend for group photos (2 or more individuals including children) that they wear the same colors and type of clothing and should wear long sleeves if possible. Casual outfits – all white, khaki & white and earth tones work best for outdoor photos. Middle tones or deeper solid colors are ideal for formal portraits – black long sleeve or turtle necks are always a good option. Avoid large prints or patterns that will detract from your face. For model shots, solid colors with nice texture or fabric can create a individual look.

Grooming and clothing style can mean the difference between a good photograph and a great photograph. However, avoid new cuts or styles close to your photo session and do not apply makeup too heavily – or none if a makeup artist/stylist is provided. You want to feel natural and comfortable and that feeling will come across in your photos. Do not tan before your shoot to prevent burn or shiny skin. For beach sessions, do not apply cream or moisturizer to your skin since the sand will stick it.



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Hair preparation is a key element in obtaining great pictures. Nothing can make a picture look great than beautifully colored hair which has been conditioned, trimmed of split ends and properly prepared. If you are looking for a natural straight hair look, large velcro rollers work great. They add body and bounce without adding curl. If you want a curlier look be sure to use hot rollers rolled cleanly with a styling product such as "Redkin Hot Sets" (found in most professional hair salons). Please keep your hair healthy looking. If you have split ends and your hair is dry, have it trimmed and professionally conditioned. While you are at the salon, have your eyebrows properly shaped and cleaned. We suggest, however, that you don't wax the area above your eyebrows right before a shoot. Waxing will take off the small fine facial hairs in that area and foundation and powder may not be able to adhere as it does on the rest of your face. This will leave lighter spots over the brows that are difficult to correct.

Skin care and nails should also be addressed prior to a shoot. Nails should be clean and freshly manicured. Most of the shots you will take are headshots and usually don't include hands, however, you never know if the photographer has a great idea for an awesome shot that utilizes hands. Skin should be clean and moisturized but not greasy. If you are severely broken out you may want to consider making an appointment with a dermatologist a few months before your shoot. One or two blemishes are usually not a problem and makeup can hide a multitude of sins. If you have a tendency to get bags or puffy pockets under your eyes, try a little "Preparation H" and a cool compress under your eyes the morning of your shoot.

Clothing is another aspect that should be taken into consideration when getting ready for a photo shoot. Have some idea as to the look you are going for. If you want natural shots, bring more natural looking clothing. If you want to go with a more glamorous look, bring more glamorous clothing with accessories that coordinate. The more you bring to choose from, the better. One thing we like to mention is that wrinkled clothing will look just as wrinkled in pictures. Take some time to make sure what you bring to wear is clean and pressed. If you are unsure what to bring, call us direct at Esquire Photography and feel free to ask. We may have some great ideas and suggestions that you may not have thought of.

The only other thing we should relay to you which is a concern of all photographers is the disposition and behavior of younger children. Parents should understand that the way their children act during a photo shoot will directly reflect in the outcome of the shoot. Children can be unpredictable and sometimes, as you know, uncooperative. It is customary for Esquire Photography or its affiliates to not be responsible to make sure that your child behaves during their shoot. It is also not the responsibility of Esquire Photography or its affiliates to follow them around the room to put makeup on them or do their hair. We ask that if you know your child can be uncooperative at times, do what you can to keep them in a good mood and under control. Be sure that they have had enough rest and don't schedule their shoot during nap time. Make sure they have eaten and bring them a little snack or drink (with a straw).

A Riot of Colour in a Grey World

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Sometimes lots of people in the room for a shoot can be distracting. Forego bringing everyone because they are excited to see and concentrate on what is best for the child's shoot. Please ask Esquire Photography's photographer or affiliates if he or she thinks it would be better for you to leave the room during the taking of the pictures. Sometimes children act better without their parents in the same room. Stay close and in ear shot so that you can hear what is going on but don't try to look in or peek because it may only distract the child further. We have done many shoots of the same children and parents ask why this shoot came out better than another or why another photographer didn't obtain good shots of their child. We can assure you that the way your child cooperates will make all the difference. Sometimes a child and a photographer or makeup artist just click and sometimes they don't, some days they act unruly and some days like a perfect angel.

We have produced great shots and not so great shots of the same children during different photo shoots. It is all about the way they are acting at the time, especially the little ones and the more cooperative and well behaved they are during a shoot, the better your chances are of receiving beautiful pictures.

We have custom coffee table story books are also available to display all your favorite photographs from your photo session. Feel free to contact us for pricing, or call us direct at 562.225.5915 and Gift Certificates are available and make great gifts for the holidays or expectant parents!

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