

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In this document you can find all the FAQ's for all my sessions. If anything is missing or if you have additional concerns, please reach out to me!

[BIRTH PHOTOGRAPHY FAQ](#)

[FRESH 48 FAQ](#)

[MILK BATH FAQ](#)

[MAMA + ME FAQ](#)

[FAMILY FILM FAQ](#)

BIRTH PHOTOGRAPHY F.A.Q.

IS BIRTH PHOTOGRAPHY ALLOWED IN HOSPITALS?

Some hospital and doctors do not allow you to have over a certain amount of visitors in the room so you must check with them to have approval first.

WHY HIRE A BIRTH PHOTOGRAPHER?

Labor, the actual birth and the baby bubble are moments which go by too fast. Most women only recall a few moments of the whirlwind once things calm down. It happened to me and I regret not having had someone there to shoot beautiful photos of my babies' stories. I have one blurry smartphone photo of each of my two birth. I wish I could go back and invest in this! We all invest in good photography for our wedding day...so why skip this moment which is just as monumental and life changing!

Additionally, Birth Photography allows the mother, and often the partner, recall all the details of the birth. The intensity of the situation, the loving exchanges between mom and her partner, the moments of silence, the chaos, the laughter, the tears, the effort... All these moments lead to the arrival of your little one. All these moments are your Birth Story. The one that changes your life forever. Birth Photography is not only about capturing the moment baby makes it earth-side. It is about capturing the before, during and after. Out of 100 photos there may only be a few of the actual birth moment!

CAN I MEET YOU BEFORE DECIDING?

Yes! This is a must! It is crucial that you feel comfortable with each person on your birth team...including me! You choose your Doctor, the hospital you wish to birth at. I am part of your choice. You must feel comfortable with me, trust me. After we meet take the time to

decide if you'd like me to capture your birth. If so (yay!) we will make arrangements to book your slot as I cannot accept more than a few births a month. Then I will be available from 38 weeks onwards...24/7!

Contact me and we can go for coffee/juice/tea!

ISN'T IT STRANGE TO HAVE A STRANGER AT SUCH AN INTIMATE EVENT?

Yes! But I will not be the only stranger there as you are giving birth at the hospital. And contrary to most nurses, midwife and other hospital staff, I may be the closest of all J

I will be the least disturbing at least!

WHEN DO YOU ARRIVE AT THE HOSPITAL?

I like to arrive at the hospital when you are either at 6 cm or that your contractions are at a point that you are no longer speaking comfortably or walking around between each surge. Please communicate progress with me from the moment you feel the first labor signs!

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU "MISS THE BIRTH"?

Communication is one the best ways to ensure that I make it to your birth on time. When moms or their partners communicate with me well I should be there on time. But sometimes even with the very best communication, precipitous births happen. It's part of your story! It was part of mine with my second baby.

If I get there and baby is already earth-side I will come to your birth place as soon as possible and document all the beautiful moments that follow your baby's arrival. I will still deliver the same amount of images to you and your family.

That being said, let's try not to miss it so please let me know once you feel contractions come! I can then prepare myself and be ready to jump in the car once active labor arrives. And in the rare event your baby comes quicker OR there is an unforeseen obstacle (traffic accident for example...) I promise you'll still receive a full collection of hand-edited images. Your story will be documented regardless of how slow or quickly it happens.

DO YOU HAVE A BACKUP PLAN?

At the moment I do not have a backup Birth Photographer, but I am working on finding one I can work with. Until then, the number of Births I can book on a monthly basis is very limited.

HOW LONG DO YOU STAY AFTER BABY ARRIVES?

I will stay the time it takes to get a few nursing shot as well as a few of the newborn exam. If any siblings or other family members come within two hours of your little one's birth I will include them in the shots. If not, we can always add a discounted Fresh 48 with them as well.

DO YOU ALSO FILM BIRTHS?

Yes I do! This is something I offer as well as taking Photographs. You will be able to give me your "priority" for the day of birth: more film or more stills? We can definitely discuss this.

HOW MANY BIRTHS DO YOU TAKE EACH MONTH?

I book maximum 4 births a month. So that chances I am “double booked” on once specific day are reduced. I am working on finding a backup Photographer to work with in the event that does happen however. Contact me as soon as you know if you would like to meet me as spots, being very limited, can fill up fast.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PHOTO SESSION?

After we meet for our initial chat my birth photography sessions include full coverage of your birth journey, beginning with active labor and ending 1 to 2 hours after the birth of your baby. From the moment you book me I am on call for you. From 38 weeks to 42 weeks I will always be within an hour or so away from your birth location. As long as you communicate your first contractions with me – I will be there.

Within 3 weeks after the birth you will receive 80+ edited images. I will also send you a couple of “sneak peek” shots within 24 hours of the birth which you can already share with your loved ones!

A short entry will be posted on my [Journal](#) with some of the more modest photos*.

* During our initial consult I will need to get a model release from you. However, I will never share or post any pictures or films without your approval and consent. This is very important of course as this is probably one of the most intimate moments of your life! Please see two questions below for more detail on what will be shared.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PHOTOS + FILM SESSION?

The same as the above with an additional 2-5 minute Birth Film.

DO YOU SHARE EVERY BIRTH ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND/OR ON YOUR WEBSITE?

I know that what you see on Social Media can be a little overwhelming at times. Seeing all these vulnerable moments shared all over Instagram and facebook can be a little frightening. People often assume that hiring a Birth Photographer means you are signing up to have pictures of your private parts online. While I find some of these images are striking and show the power of birth I also believe birth is a very emotional moment. Some moms will want me to capture the emotional and physical and others will just want me to capture the emotional. A more modest story can be captured. These focus more on reactions, looks, connections, small details, etc. This is something that will be discuss at our initial consultation. I will do my best to provide a gallery that fits your preferences. I try to work angles so that shots are not too revealing if that is important to you. If you don't want crowning images, I can avoid them or take them from a different angle. If you're not quite sure of it, I can always take them and give you the option to delete after the fact.

Your birth gallery will be password protected with a unique download code.

Each of my moms must fill out a contract with an extensive model release, granting me

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permission to share (or NOT share) your birth story online. As my client, you always have the option to keep your photos completely private. While many of my clients find joy in sharing their story with the world, many others keep those images and film just for their own family. Whatever you choose, I'm behind you 100 percent. I respect each woman's culture, preferences, and beliefs. Your privacy and comfort is my number one priority.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST ME?

Birth photography is an investment, just like wedding photography is. But I can assure you it is one investment that you will not regret. These images will bring you joy for the rest of your lives.

Please see on my offers and [contact me](#) for pricing.

WHY IS BIRTH PHOTOGRAPHY "EXPENSIVE"?

A lot of people assume that a birth session might be similarly priced to a portrait session. But because the nature of Birth, it's unpredictability, I am on call for you from the moment you hire me. It's a sacrifice I choose to make as I must be ready to leave, day or night, for hours to be by your side.

Labor can last 5 hours but could also take 30 hours! By charging these rates I can be there from the moment active labor begins to the moment baby is in your arms. Each birth story is unique and unpredictable.

Professional birth photography costs are high but it truly is one of the most challenging types of photography. I not only want you to have beautiful images, but I also want you to feel like you hired someone who truly understands and respects the sacredness of the birth process.

DO YOU PRINT BOOKS OR OFFER OTHER PRODUCTS?

Not at the moment. I will however give you a print release form so you can print the shots you wish in the location of your choice.

DO YOU OFFER OTHER TYPES OF PHOTOGRAPHY?

Yes – I do!! I offer Fresh 48's (discounts available for my Birth Photography moms!), Mama + me sessions (dads...take more shots with mom PLEASE!) and family films which are one of my favorites as they bring your story to life with sound and movement! [Click here for more info on Fresh 48's and here for Mama + Me sessions.](#)

FRESH 48 SESSION F.A.Q.

ARE FRESH 48 SESSIONS ALLOWED IN HOSPITALS HERE IN DUBAI?

Yes! But you can always ask your Doctor for peace of mind. In most cases I will be treated like any other visitor so sessions must take place during regular visiting hours.

WHEN SHOULD I SCHEDULE MY FRESH 48 SESSION?

As soon as you know when your due date is, let me know so we can make arrangements and I can book your spot. Obviously, by nature of birth, I will be flexible and arrange my schedule to be there within 48 hours of Baby's birth.

I also accept last minute Fresh 48's if I am available so do reach out to me at anytime!

WHEN AND WHERE WILL IT TAKE PLACE?

The session will take place at the hospital and are scheduled within the first 24 to 48 hours after delivery, during Hospital visitation hours.

WHY BOOK A FRESH 48 SESSION?

The moments just after the whirlwind of labor and delivery are some of the most precious moments for a parents. This is when you get to get to know the new addition to your family, discover the tiniest details of the little being that has been nestling in your belly for all those months! The way your baby looks, his reactions, his discovery of the world...it is all so breathtaking! The moment the family meets this little person is such an important event in everyone's lives. It is precious to have someone else be there to capture them so you can be free to live them fully! And when you will see the images all those emotions that were in that room will come back to you...it is priceless!

DO YOU DO ACTUAL BIRTH PHOTOS OR ONLY POST BIRTH PHOTOS?

I do both. Birth photography is my passion. Head over to my [Birth Photography page](#).

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PHOTO SESSION?

1-2 Hours of shooting time. Within 2 weeks you will have 30+ images sent to you via a password protected online gallery. You will get both low resolution images to share and high resolution images if you wish to print them.

HOW LONG WILL I BE WITH YOU?

Usually I am there between 1 and 2 hours. I try to schedule your session in the morning when the light is best. If family is coming to discover the baby we can arrange for the session to happen during that time.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST YOU?

I offer two packages for Fresh 48 sessions: with or without film. [Contact me](#) for pricing

information.

WHEN DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST TIME FOR PHOTOGRAPHS?

It's best to do them earlier in the day to make the most of a beautiful natural light.

WHEN SHOULD I CONTACT YOU TO COME OVER TO THE HOSPITAL?

As soon as labor starts let me know so I can make sure I have some time slots available in the following 1-3 days.

WHAT IF LABOR TAKES LONGER THAN EXPECTED?

Birth is unexpected, unscripted...so please, do not worry. We will make it work.

WHAT IS MY FRESH 48 STYLE?

I like to capture baby, mom, dad and family with the least posing possible. I am there to capture the natural interactions of your family. I sometimes will suggest a shot and am more than happy to have you ask me for some you might like, but I will try to avoid interfering with your newborn bubble of happiness!

WHAT IF MY BABY NEEDS TO BE IN THE NICU?

In this case it depends on Hospital policy. We will see the details at that moment. If we are not allowed to schedule a shoot then your deposit will be applied to Mama + Me or Film session.

DO YOU SHARE MY PHOTOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND/OR ON YOUR WEBSITE?

I would love to share your story. However, I respect each woman's culture, preferences, and beliefs. Your Fresh 48 gallery will be password protected with a unique download code. Each of my moms must fill out a contract with an extensive model release, granting me permission to share (or NOT share) your images and/or film online. As my client, you always have the option to keep your photos completely private. While many of my clients find joy in sharing their story with the world, many others keep those images and film just for their own family. Whatever you choose, I'm behind you 100 percent. I respect each woman's culture, preferences, and beliefs. Your privacy and comfort is my number one priority.

DO I NEED ANYTHING FOR THE PHOTOS?

Babies look the best the way they are. A diaper, a onesie, swaddled in a little blanket. However if you'd like to have a few shots of baby in a special outfit we can do that towards the end of the session.

You can also bring meaningful objects such as a toy or heirloom that you would like included. For Mom and Dad my advice for a fresh 48 is casual, comfortable clothes, neutral colors, avoid visible branding on clothing if possible, a little make up if mom wants it, really up to you. Do try to get your sweet baby to eat just before the session so baby is happy!

WHAT IF DELIVER EARLY?

I am on-call and available to you for 2 weeks prior and 2 weeks after your estimated due date. If you deliver earlier than that time-frame I will make every effort to still be available to you.

WHAT IS YOUR CANCELLATION POLICY?

The deposit is non-refundable but we can always arrange for it to be applied to another session I offer.

IF I CANNOT MAKE IT DUE SOMETHING UNEXPECTED ON MY SIDE, WILL YOU BE REFUNDED?

Yes! A full refund of your deposit will be given if I am miss your Fresh 48 for any given reason (if I am at a Birth for example). It can also be applied towards another session I offer (Mama + Me, Family Film, etc).

WILL HOSPITAL STAFF BE IN THE PICTURES?

Not unless it is important to you and we have their (written) approval.

MILK BATH SESSION F.A.Q.

WHEN SHOULD I SCHEDULE MILK BATH SESSION?

If you want a session to showcase your bump the best is during the 3rd trimester. For kids/toddlers/pets..anytime! [Contact me](#) to schedule your session.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL IT TAKE PLACE?

The session will take place at your home. Daytime is the best for the light.

WHY BOOK A MILK BATH SESSION?

Milk bath sessions are a unique way to show off your beautiful belly! The white background really puts your beautiful bump in the light.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PHOTO SESSION?

1-2 hours of shooting time. Within 2 weeks you will have 30+ images sent to you via a password protected online gallery. You will get both low resolution images to share and high resolution images if you wish to print them.

HOW LONG WILL YOU BE THERE?

Between 1 and 2 hours on average.

HOW MUCH IS A MAMA + ME SESSION?

For pricing information [click here](#).

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME FOR PHOTOGRAPHS?

It's best to do them during the day to make the most of a beautiful natural light.

DO YOU SHARE IMAGES ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND/OR YOUR WEBSITE?

I would love to share your story. However, I respect each woman's culture, preferences, and beliefs. Your gallery will be password protected with a unique download code.

Each of my moms must fill out a contract with an extensive model release, granting me permission to share (or NOT share) your images and/or film online. As my client, you always have the option to keep your photos completely private. While many of my clients find joy in sharing their story with the world, many others keep those images and film just for their own family. Whatever you choose, I'm behind you 100 percent. I respect each woman's culture, preferences, and beliefs. Your privacy and comfort is my number one priority.

DO I NEED ANYTHING FOR THE PHOTOS?

You can clean up a little bit of the clutter at home and do what you need to feel naturally beautiful! Neutral colors look best on photos and it is best to avoid logos and brands. As long as you are comfortable!

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I can provide a few bras and pieces of tulle for the photos but please wear nude colored underwear so they do not show through the milk.

WHAT IS YOUR CANCELLATION POLICY?

The deposit is non-refundable, but we can always arrange for it to be applied to another later session if you cancel with at least 48hours notice.

IF I CANNOT MAKE IT DUE SOMETHING UNEXPECTED ON MY SIDE, WILL YOU BE REFUNDED?

Yes! A full refund of your deposit will be given if I miss your Milk Bath session for any given reason (if I am busy shooting a Birth/Labor, for example). It can also be applied towards another session I offer (Family Film for example).

CAN KIDS/PETS/PARTNERS JOIN IN ON THE PHOTOS?

OF COURSE!!

MAMA + ME SESSION F.A.Q.

WHEN SHOULD I SCHEDULE MAMA + ME SESSION?

Anytime! [Contact me](#) to schedule your session.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL IT TAKE PLACE?

The session will take place at your home. Daytime is the best for the light.

WHY BOOK A MAMA + ME SESSION?

Most of the time we mamas are the ones taking photos and films of our family. Wouldn't it be nice to have sweet moments between you and your child(ren) to look back on as well?

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PHOTO SESSION?

1-2 hours of shooting time. Within 2 weeks you will have 30+ images sent to you via a password protected online gallery. You will get both low resolution images to share and high resolution images if you wish to print them.

HOW LONG WILL YOU BE THERE?

Between 1 and 2 hours on average.

HOW MUCH IS A MAMA + ME SESSION?

I offer two packages for Mama + Me sessions : with or without film. For pricing information [click here](#).

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME FOR PHOTOGRAPHS?

It's best to do them during the day to make the most of a beautiful natural light.

WHAT IS YOUR MAMA + ME STYLE?

I like to capture life as it is: simply you nursing your baby, playing with your toddler, baking cookies, helping with homework. Basically any daily activities that will make your heart burst when all these days go by. They say that days are long but years are short...it will bring such joy to see the little details of our routines once our kids are older.

DO YOU SHARE PHOTOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND/OR YOUR WEBSITE?

I would love to share your story. However, I respect each woman's culture, preferences, and beliefs. Your Mama + Me gallery will be password protected with a unique download code. Each of my moms must fill out a contract with an extensive model release, granting me permission to share (or NOT share) your images and/or film online. As my client, you always have the option to keep your photos completely private. While many of my clients find joy in

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sharing their story with the world, many others keep those images and film just for their own family. Whatever you choose, I'm behind you 100 percent. I respect each woman's culture, preferences, and beliefs. Your privacy and comfort is my number one priority.

DO I NEED ANYTHING FOR THE PHOTOS?

You can clean up a little bit of the clutter at home, get dressed comfortably, do what you need to feel naturally beautiful! Neutral colors look best on photos and it is best to avoid logos and brands. As long as you are comfortable!

WHAT IS YOUR CANCELLATION POLICY?

The deposit is non-refundable, but we can always arrange for it to be applied to another later session if you cancel with at least 48hours notice.

IF I CANNOT MAKE IT DUE SOMETHING UNEXPECTED ON MY SIDE, WILL YOU BE REFUNDED?

Yes! A full refund of your deposit will be given if I miss your Mama + Me session for any given reason (if I am busy shooting a Birth/Labor, for example). It can also be applied towards another session I offer (Family Film for example).

CAN FAMILY JOIN IN ON THE PHOTOS?

They can but keep in mind this is for you!

FAMILY FILM SESSION F.A.Q.

WHAT IS A FAMILY FILM?

I make a short film about your family: I come over to your home (or meet you somewhere if you have a special outing you'd like a film of) and spend a couple of hours shooting a series of short clips with my DSLR camera and some other small stabilizing and sound equipment. I film you, the real you: not staged, not scripted, not posed. I watch and capture you playing, cooking, eating ice-cream, helping with homework...whichever activity is going on.

I then edit the footage with music that matches your family and mood of the session!

WHY SHOULD I PICK FILM IF I ALREADY BOOK YOU FOR PHOTOS?

I LOVE photo but nothing will ever beat the emotion that comes through on film. Imagine seeing a photo of your grandparents. Then imagine the same scene on film where you hear their voice, you see their expressions, the movement...Film captures much more than a photograph does. Sound is such a strong addition to the images. Imagine hearing the sound of your child's little feet running on the floor, the laughter, all things that cannot be captured in a still.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE SESSION?

1-2 hours of shooting time for a Family Film session. Within 2 weeks you will have a 3-5 minute film sent to you via Vimeo. If you choose to book the Film + Photo session you will also get 20+ edited images sent to you via a password protected online gallery. You will get both low resolution images to share and high resolution images if you wish to print them.

MY HOUSE IS NOT SO CLEAN...WILL IT LOOK BAD?

The focus of a film session is you, your family, not the actual home. It will be in the background...but it is also a representation of you at that point in time. I understand what it is to be in a house full of toddler clutter! But that is us now...and I would love to remember it that way!

CAN I PICK A SONG I LOVE FOR THE EDIT?

For licensing reasons (mainly very high costs) I do not use popular songs. Popular songs don't stay popular anyways and I prefer to set films to more of an emotional tone.

CAN YOU MAYBE ADD SOME OF MY FILM TO YOUR EDIT?

Due to frame rates and quality I do not offer that option.

DO YOU OFFER PHOTOGRAPHY?

Yes – I also offer photography. Check out my website for more detail.

CAN I SHARE MY FILM?

Yes – of course. You will get a print release but I do ask to credit me whenever possible!

DO YOU SHARE FILMS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND/OR YOUR WEBSITE?

I would love to share your Film. However, I respect each family's culture, preferences, and beliefs. Your film will initially be password protected. If you decide not to share then I ask you to consider the possibility of me making a shorter version of your film to share if the full family story is too intimate.

Each of my moms must fill out a contract with an extensive model release, granting me permission to share (or NOT share) your film and/or stills online. As my client, you always have the option to keep your photos completely private. While many of my clients find joy in sharing their story with the world, many others keep those images and film just for their own family. Whatever you choose, I'm behind you 100 percent. I respect each woman's culture, preferences, and beliefs. Your privacy and comfort is my number one priority.

DO I NEED ANYTHING FOR THE DAY OF FILMING?

You can clean up a little bit of the clutter, if you find there is too much of it but do not go overboard! Dress comfortably and make sure the kids are comfortable.

WHAT IS YOUR CANCELLATION POLICY?

The deposit is non-refundable but we can always arrange for it to be applied to another later session if you cancel with at least 48hours notice.

IF I CANNOT MAKE IT DUE SOMETHING UNEXPECTED ON MY SIDE, WILL YOU BE REFUNDED?

Yes! A full refund of your deposit will be given or we can reschedule if I am unable to make it to our appointment for any given reason (if I am busy shooting a Birth/Labor, for example).