



faq's

(for inquiring minds who want to know)

for clients

1. Why are you a children's photographer?

Funny story here... when my son, Max, was 12 months old, i took him to a mall chain photo studio to get his 12 month photos. Well, he was a typical 12 month old...and he REALLY wanted to ride in the fire truck they had there. He was all over the place, the photographer wasn't engaging him, and I was FREAKING out! I left the studio in tears and not feeling so well. I wound up at DePaul Hospital's ER with stroke-like symptoms about 2 hours later. I hadn't had a stroke...I had a massive adult on-set migraine brought upon by the stress of the photo session. I'm not kidding. That event was my motivation to change my attitude about children's photography. I knew there had to be a better way. So here I am.

As a side note, after the "mini-stroke," my husband snuck to the store and purchased my first dslr (a Nikon d70) for me. I was FURIOUS with him....at that point in our marriage that was a lot of money for us to spend on a whim. Well...I'm now so glad that he did it. He saw the potential in me and took a chance. Thank god!

When I'm at a session, I encourage the parents to relax and just let me handle the situation. I understand children and their developmental stages (I used to be a teacher back in the day). And I LOVE children. I really don't want to send any parents to the ER!

2. We're thinking about photos today and as our children grow. Will you be here to capture our current newborn's senior photos in 17 years?

That's a great question, and one that's pretty easy for me to answer with confidence. You may have read on my bio, I am a life-long resident of Norfolk (primarily in the 23507 zip code). I was third generation at Maury High, and I have no intentions of moving from this zip code (or from our home). I'm a bit of a homebody, and a true native, so have no fear, I honestly cannot foresee ever moving out of Norfolk. My goal is to capture all my clients from their birth until their graduation from high school. If you're looking for a photographer to capture all the stages of your child's life, look no further.

3. Do you photograph weddings?

No, I don't. But, I'm more than happy to refer you to some incredible local wedding photographers. Email me, and I'll forward you a couple of names.

I am strictly a children's photographer.

4. Do you photograph on the beach?

I do not photograph on the actual beach... it just isn't my style. Once again, email me, and I'll be happy to refer you to some incredible "beach" photographers.

5. What if I don't want photos to be taken in my home?

We can make arrangements to photograph elsewhere. The beauty of Norfolk is that there are so many awesome, unique areas to photograph. We can also do studio photos in my Ghent studio. Or, you may want to consider using your parent's home or your in-law's home if these are options.

6. I really just want photos of my children running around. Can you do that?

Well, I'm sure I'll get some of them doing just that, because that is what kids do best, but when I come to your home, I will work with your child to create a peaceful, fun session, so that we can capture photos of your child in a relaxed state. I am primarily a portrait artist, but if you would like lifestyle photos, let me know. I may refer you to another photographer if my style does not fit your needs.

7. OMG....you're scheduled to be at my home in half an hour and my house is a wreck, what should I do?

First of all, don't stress. Seriously. I'm sure you have many other things to worry about other than what I think when I walk into your home. I don't care if it is a mess. I'll help you schlep all the excess stuff into your kitchen, so DON'T worry. I'm here to capture your child, not to give your house a white glove inspection or make you feel bad about the state of things. I'll make myself completely at home and declutter where I think it is necessary. The one thing you can do (rather than stress) is just to windex the glass on your front door or french doors – get those finger prints and dog slobber marks off the glass if there are any. That's it. Also make sure your child is prepared and ready. Again, I'm here to photograph your little peanut....not to judge your housekeeping skills.

8. My child has a bite mark on his face from a run-in with one of his playmates. Should we reschedule the session?

The beauty of digital photography is that I can touch up any imperfections on your child's skin. So don't worry!

9. What should my child wear?

This is a really great question...you'll receive more information about clothing options from me when you book your session. I will basically state that I don't like to photograph tennis shoes or teeshirts.

10. We're so excited that you're coming to take photos of our little one. We even invited my parents, my in-laws, my sister and her children and our neighbors to come watch and be a part of the fun. Isn't that great?

Ummmm.....that may not be a great idea. Too much commotion doesn't generally lead to great photos. Keep it simple. The less confusion and chaos, the better. Trust me on this.

11. Can we incorporate our family pet into a couple of photos?

Yes. Absolutely. Just make sure I don't try to take your dog with me when I leave!

12. Some mommies in our playgroup just got new dslr's and we're looking for someone to help us learn how to use them. Can you help us?

I would love to help you. I do offer mini-classes for moms who are interested in getting more out of their cameras. Just email me to discuss availability. Teaching is a passion of mine, and I do miss being in the classroom. By teaching workshops, I'm able to combine two passions into one.

13. What's up with the music on your website?

I have two artists on my website. One is Frances England (www.francesengland.com) and the other is my Uncle Johnny! He wrote and recorded the song after taking a look at my website when I launched it last year. How cool is that? I have purchased licensing rights from Frances, and of course I have permission from my Uncle Johnny to use his music!

14. How many sessions do you book a month?

I currently only book 10 sessions a month due to my schedule (I am first and foremost a mom). My schedule tends to book up fast – typically two months in advance. Please keep this in mind. That’s one of the reasons I require the session fee to be paid up front from the clients. It discourages cancellations,.

for photographers

1. What camera do you use?

I use the Nikon d3 (my precious) and the Nikon d200 as a back up.

2. What lenses do you primarily use?

I only use prime lenses...85mm 1.4, 50mm 1.4, 35mm 2.0 and the sigma 20mm 1.4 (for fun)

3. How did you get started?

Well, simply put, I worked my butt off. My background is graphic design, which gave me an edge on the composition and computer photo editing aspect of photography. I knew when max was born that there had to be a better way to get photos of him. Read my story under the client FAQ’s for more on this! I started with a d70 in 2004, and the rest is history. Here I am!

4. Do you tutor/allow mentees to come on sessions with you?

Absolutely! If you’re interested in photographing with me, send me an email. I am an open book with what I know (and don’t know).

5. Are you totally natural light?

Well, kinda. I use studio lighting for my studio sessions and for any commercial/corporate work I do. But when I’m on-location at a client’s home, I primarily use natural/available light. I do have a speedlight (sb800) that gets used for more commercial/head shot work.

6. How do you get your child to model for you?

I pay him. Seriously. He earns an hourly wage for his modeling sessions, which is a win-win for both of us. Teaches him about responsibility and earning something, and it provides me with a great model to experiment with.

7. Ohhhh...I just got a digital slr, and I’m ready to open up my own photography business! What should I do?

Wow..... good for you, I applaud anyone who has enthusiasm for photography. Before jumping into business , I encourage you to master the art of photography, and learn the ins and outs of owning a business. You’ll need a CPA, a business license, insurance for your business/equipment, I would recommend joining the PPA, etc. If you’re JUST starting out, visit forums such as www.ilovephotography.com. This is an invaluable resource for children’s photographers who are just starting out.