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NEWBORN PORTRAIT CONTRACT - Journalistic

Please complete and return with check made out to **April Messer Photography, LLC**. Once received, the date will be reserved and we will contact you for an in person meeting to go over details and questions, unless you prefer to go over the agreement in person before signing. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this contract.

Session Date: _____ **Time Photography Starts:** _____ **Time Photography Duration:** 1 Hr

Due Date: _____

Location (s): _____

Children (s) Name & Age: _____ : _____ : _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Parent's Name: _____ **Home#:** _____ **Cell#:** _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Items of importance: please be specific (family heirlooms, etc).

Attire: describe outfits, hats etc _____

Persons in Party: _____

Photography fee agreed to: \$150 (plus applicable expenses/taxes as described in the contract). A **retainer fee of half of total** is required to hold your specific day. Paid _____. Remaining balance to be paid prior to the start of photo shoot. (Payment accepted: Cash, Check, Paypal, Venmo @apmesser7, or credit card over phone)

NEWBORN PACKAGE AND SERVICES INCLUDED FOR THE FEE STATED ABOVE:

Up to 1 Hours of professional Photography Coverage, Private viewing session of images in your home approximately 2 weeks after your session, Online gallery to share with friends and family for 1 month, Prints and print products available for purchase.

*Add 5 Digital Files for \$150 or 8 for \$350

ENTIRE AGREEMENT: This agreement contains the entire understanding between **April Messer Photography, LLC** and the CLIENT. It supersedes all prior and simultaneous agreements between the parties. The only way to add or change this agreement is to do so in writing, signed by all the parties. If the parties want to waive one provision of this agreement that does not mean that any other provision is also waived. The party against whom a waiver is sought to be effective must have signed a waiver in writing.

RESERVATION: A signed contract and retainer fee are required to reserve the specified coverage. Upon signature of this agreement by party hereto, **AMP LLC** will reserve the time agreed upon and will not make another reservation for the specific time frame. For this reason, retainer fee is non-refundable even if the date is changed or if the session becomes cancelled for any reason.

COOPERATION: The parties agree to cheerful cooperation and communication for the best possible result within the definition of this assignment. It is understood and agreed that no other photographer will be allowed to photograph or take pictures during the session while the Photographer is working (unless authorized by **AMP LLC**).

SHOOTING TIME / ADDITIONS: The photography schedule and selected methodology are designed to accomplish the goals and wishes of the CLIENT in a manner enjoyed by all parties. CLIENT and **AMP LLC** agree that cheerful cooperation and punctuality are therefore essential to that purpose. Shooting commences at the scheduled start time. If appointment is canceled or rescheduled without 24 hr notice a minimum of \$25 fee will be added to the cost of package.

FILM and COPYRIGHTS: *Until final payment* for services rendered is made, the photographs produced by **AMP LLC** are protected by Federal Copyright Law (all rights reserved) and may not be reproduced in any manner without **AMP LLC's** explicitly written permission. Upon final payment by the CLIENT, *limited* copyright ownership of the resulting images may be transferred to the CLIENT under the following conditions:

Rights to print images may be released to CLIENT on USB or Dropbox upload and will be indicated in the written part of contract. These rights are for the CLIENTS own personal use. These rights may also give the CLIENT permission to post images to personal web pages with watermark remaining on each image (images may NOT be altered or edited and must remain how they were received, with the exception of cropping image for print purposes.)

Unless otherwise specified, it is understood that any and all rights to proofs, final or sample prints, thereof shall remain the property of the **AMP LLC** and may be used for advertising, display or any other purpose thought proper by the **AMP LLC**.

EXHIBITION: Requests for specific images to be used by **AMP LLC** may be requested at a future time. CLIENT grants **AMP LLC** permission to display selected images resulting from this assignment as an example of **AMP LLC** work and for entrance into photographic competitions and release all claims to profits that may arise from use of images.

MODEL RELEASE: The CLIENT hereby grants to **AMP LLC** and its legal representatives and assigns, the irrevocable and unrestricted right to use and publish photographs of the CLIENT or in which the CLIENT may be included, for editorial, trade, advertising and any other purpose and in any manner and medium; to alter the same without restriction; and to copyright the same. The CLIENT hereby releases **AMP LLC** and its legal representatives and assigns from all claims and liability relating to said photographs.

LIMIT OF LIABILITY: In the unlikely event that the photographer is injured or becomes too ill to photograph the event, **AMP LLC** will make every effort to secure a replacement photographer if the date cannot be changed. If the situation should occur and a suitable replacement is not found, responsibility and liability is limited to the return of all payments received for the session. **AMP LLC** takes the utmost care with respect to exposure, transportation, and processing the photographs. However, in the unlikely event that photographs are lost, stolen, or destroyed for reasons within or beyond **AMP LLC's** control, **AMP LLC** liability is limited to performing a replacement session or the return of all payments received for the session. The limit of liability for a partial loss of originals shall be a prorated amount of the exposures lost based on the percentage of total number of originals.

SECURITY DEPOSITS: In the event of cancellation, the retainer fee paid is non-refundable. It shall be liquidated damages to **AMP LLC** in the event of a breach of contract by CLIENT. The CLIENT shall also be responsible for payment for any **AMP LLC** material charges incurred up to time of cancellation.

COMPLETION SCHEDULE: Print processing/developing takes approximately four weeks.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Retainer Fee is due at time of signing of agreement. Balance payable in full prior to shoot time starting. Payment plans are available and must be agreed upon before photo shoot starts.

The parties have read ALL of this Agreement, agree to all its terms, and acknowledge receipt of a complete copy of the Agreement signed by both parties. Each person signing as CLIENT below shall be fully responsible for ensuring that full payment is made pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

(Signature of Client)

(Signature of Parent, if Minor)

(Print Client Name)

(Print Parent Name, if Minor)

(Date)

(Date)

April Messer/Am

(Signature of April Messer Photography, LLC)

(Date)

TIPS:

• LOVELY LIGHT!

I ask that you open all of the blinds and curtains in your home prior to my arrival. This enables me to find the best source of natural light in your home, so that I can set up a “mini studio” in the best possible location.

Nothing flatters like natural light, so we prefer to use it whenever possible.

For this reason, sessions are normally done mid-morning to late-afternoon when window lighting is at its best. When I arrive, I’ll walk through your home looking for the best light and that is where I’ll do a majority of the shoot. Sometimes the best location ends up being a foyer, by the backdoor or kitchen...usually wherever there is a large window.

I’ll also bring additional lighting equipment to help out when needed.

• CRANK THE HEAT!

I recommend that you keep your home a bit warmer than normal during the session. (Like a toasty 80 degrees or so.)

Newborns are used to being all bundled up, warm + cozy...and then I come in and yank off all their clothes for those adorable naked baby shots. They tend not to like that too much!

Pushing up the thermostat is guaranteed to make the session flow more smoothly and help them sleep better. I may be sweating, but baby will be nice and warm...and that’s really all that matters!

Crank the heat 30 minutes before our session to ensure that it’s warm enough in time for the clothes yanking...and I’ll bring along a space heater to help keep baby in a steady warmth.

Bonus points if you’re willing to make a few back and forth trips to the dryer to keep baby’s blankets warm! They love that!

• LOOSEN UP!

Please loosen your baby’s diaper and clothing at least 30 minutes before the session. This gives those little imprint marks time to disappear. (Your baby will be naked in most of the shots, but I pose them so that all the “important bits” are not on display.)

• SLEEPY?

Most of the images I’ll be shooting work best if the baby is in a deep sleep. To encourage this, I recommend that you do whatever it takes to make sure baby is nice and exhausted. Keeping your little one awake on top of your own sleep deprivation might feel like torture, but I think it will be worth it in the end!

• HUNGRY?

A well fed baby is a happy baby! Please feed and burp baby right before our session to ensure a happy, sleepy (“milk drunk”) baby. I’ll also be more than happy to take as many breaks as needed to help him/her re-fuel. It’s tough work being a model!

• VOLUME CONTROL!

Please do whatever you can to keep the noise level to a minimum during our session. If you have other children that might create noise, try to find a sitter or family member to take them away from the home for a few hours. If you have a noisy pet, you may want to do the same. If you have a sound machine it would be best to have that present to help.

* If you have children and would like them to be included in some photos, I recommend bringing them in at the beginning or end of a session and then having someone take them. Only those being photographed should be present to help maintain a calm environment.

• PATIENCE IS KEY!

Newborn sessions can last anywhere from 2-4 hours. It all depends on baby’s mood and willingness to sleep. Unfortunately...this isn’t something I can predict! I ask that everyone remain calm, should he/she not want to sleep, since your baby will pick up on any frustration in the room. And if sleep doesn’t happen, that’s okay! Wide-eyed newborn photos are beautiful too.

• RELAX!

Let me say it again... *Relaxxx!*

I’m pretty comfortable holding and posing newborns. I am from a very large family and have been around

babies my whole life. Your baby is in safe hands, I promise!

So yes! Feel free to rest and leave the room for a bit if you'd like. I've had parents who've used this time to take a nap, shower...and even run out for a quick dinner. All totally acceptable to me! If I have a question or need you for feeding, I'll come and track you down.

- **IN CASE YOU MISSED THAT: RELAX!**

Moms tend to stress out because this is a new experience...and they aren't used to the waiting game that is *newborn photography*.

They see their baby being fussy or having a difficult time getting settled and panic.

"This is a disaster! They aren't going to get ANY good photos!"

It isn't, and we will!

I take the baby's lead; getting them to sleep before posing takes time and they may need to be fed or cuddled a few times first. In fact, I'd say that a good 50% of your session will involve feeding, diaper changes, and cuddling to get baby comfortable. If that doesn't work, I'll take a break or I'll work with what baby is giving me. Sometimes the best photos happen when baby isn't doing what we want.

Just remember: Babies can sense stress and anxiety (especially from their mommy's!) It's super important that EVERYONE remain calm and relaxed during this session. Keeping the environment as mellow as possible is pretty much the only way we're going to get the shots we're looking for.

- **POOP HAPPENS!**

Your baby is going to be in the buff for the majority of this shoot. Please don't panic if your baby decides to use my blankets (or me) as his/her own personal potty.

This is natural and I expect it! Please don't feel embarrassed or worry when this happens, because they all do it.

It would definitely be helpful if you had a stack of old towels, extra wipes and blankets available for when things get messy though.

*If you would like shots in a diaper, it's a good idea to have a cloth diaper, diaper cover in a solid color, bloomers, or something to put over the diaper. Diapers on their own tend to look a little messy and distracting in photos, but throwing a cover over it cleans things up.

- **PROPS!**

Looks for items with texture and color to help make your images unique.

If you have any family heirlooms, toys, hats, props, etc. that you would like me to use in your session, please gather them before I arrive. I may not get the chance to use ALL of the items, but I'll look through them with you to determine what will work best.

*I also STRONGLY recommend that you discuss any ideas, props or poses you have in mind at least a week prior to your session.

I start planning out your session weeks in advance, so dropping a huge idea on me mid-session (that requires an unavailable prop) can cause stress on everyone! So talk to me early on and let me know what you have in mind!

- **THE NOSE KNOWS!**

As a mother, your smell is so recognizable to your baby, that it may be necessary for mom to step out of the room for a portion of the session. This is not meant to hurt your feelings, only to allow us to help the get baby thinking sweet, sleepy thoughts...instead of "where's my milk?!"

- **SPEAK UP!**

Your baby's safety comes first! If there is ever a point where you become uncomfortable, just let me know! I take every measure to ensure that your baby is never in any danger. For that reason, I will always make sure that a parent or assistant is nearby to lend support if needed.

- **BUT WHAT DO *I* WEAR?**

I know! You just had a baby and aren't feeling your best. But I think this is the perfect time to pamper yourself!

Go have your hair + makeup done (or better yet, have someone come to you!), schedule a massage or have

your nails done. Looking super relaxed and at your best will make you feel more comfortable during the session. This is an exciting time in your life and I want to capture all of that...so take care of yourself first! And feel free to tell your husband that I'm making you if they need a little convincing!

As far as clothing? Keep it simple. Throw in a little color if you'd like, but skip the busy patterns. (And please don't feel the need to match everyone in white shirts and jeans – there's simple...and then there's boring!)

For moms, I suggest cotton knit camis and knit tops.

I'm also a big fan of skin-on-skin portraits with you holding your baby against you. They're so simple + timeless!

So if you want some portraits like this with your newborn, consider a strapless top or tank as an alternative.

- **FOR THE MEN.**

Your hands, and possibly even your feet, will play a major role in this session, so it's important that you tend to them too!

Even if you aren't planning on participating much in the session, you'll still be handling your baby a bit, so it's a good idea to touch up on your grooming.

Trim and tidy your nails and apply lotion to any dry skin. (It also never hurts to dab a little moisturizer on your face to help you look more refreshed. Those late nights can take a toll on your skin!)

A little clothing advice? Long or short sleeved knits are best. (Make sure there isn't too much bagginess in the sleeve.) Undershirts also work well.

I suggest you NOT wear button down shirts, and make sure your t-shirts are free of logos or too much writing. *Wrinkles do show up in photos, so please make sure all clothing is ironed or steamed. The retouching involved is extensive and will incur an extra fee.

- **MAKE THE BED!**

Is there anything more simple + gorgeous than a new family cuddled up in bed together? The answer is no!

So I might suggest that we move the session to your bedroom at some point. If that's something that appeals to you, a few tips:

1. Make the bed, just this once.

2. A solid blanket/comforter (or something that isn't TOO busy is best.)

3. I highly recommend white to light cream bedding to keep things light and airy. (And are more than happy to bring some along if needed!