

# Threæ Cats Photography

www.threæcatsphotography.biz

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why should I hire a professional photographer instead of taking the picture myself or have a friend take the photo?**

- While it is true that everyone has a camera in their phone, and cell phone cameras have come a long way, it does not make everyone a photographer. I quick scroll through the pictures will show that. A professional photographer understands lighting, composition, and the best way to pose you and/or your family to produce a beautiful portrait whether that is in studio or on location. While all portraits are photos, the reverse is not always true.

### **What is required to book a session?**

- There are two requirements to book a session date/time and a follow up item:
  - Speak to me, or email me to inquire about dates and times. I can be reached at 517-490-6642 or electronically at [threecatsphoto@gmail.com](mailto:threecatsphoto@gmail.com) or through the “contact me” area on my website [www.threecatsphotography.biz](http://www.threecatsphotography.biz) . Please do not text me via my cell number for this purpose, I will just instruct you to call me if you do this. I never set anything up via text, though we may confirm some details and communicate that way after the session is booked.
  - Deposit must be received to have the session booked and confirmed. The minimum deposit is 50% of the session fee, though you can pay in full in advance if that is more convenient for you. Once payment is received, I will confirm the booking to you via email or phone call. You can see below on ways I accept payment. If paying by check, I will hold a date temporarily to allow receipt of payment. I recommend the electronic options as they are quicker and more secure. **Final payment is due on or before session date.**
  - A signed agreement will be needed (I will supply this document to you). This document lays out the specifics of the session such as date, time and the terms. This is not needed to book the session and can be sent back after the deposit is received, but before our session. In some rare cases I will allow it to be brought the day of the session if discussed ahead of time and there is a reason to do so. This is rare, as it can be signed and send back via text or email.

## How do I pay for my session?

- I do not take credit cards, but I have several ways you can pay me. I will inquire with you how you intend to pay so I can monitor for payment.
  - Cash- Cash is fine, but do not mail cash. If this is the way you prefer to pay, talk with me and we can work out arrangements to meet or for you to drop off.
  - Check- Check will be accepted, but please note any checks that do not clear will result in the cancelation of your date.
  - Zelle- If you are not familiar with Zelle, it is a system set up and used by many of the major banks for the ability to transfer money electronically in a safe and secure manner. Check with your bank to see if this is an option.
  - Venmo – Venmo is a third party payment app.
  - Paypal – Paypal is a major third party payment system.

## Once on book my session, what can I expect?

- Once we have booked and confirmed your date and time, you can expect to hear from me several times before your session by phone and email or possibly text.
  - After booking I will call to discuss, or schedule a discussion, in more detail, of what you want out of your session. Also, I will gather all necessary contact information for you if I do not already have it. It is important we have a clear understanding, so we can make the most of your session time. During this call, we will discuss wardrobe suggestions, any specifics regarding special posing that is needed or editing and digital requirements. If this is a headshot session for use on your company's website or your social media, please let me know so we make sure that any editing we do conforms to meet your needs. I may ask you to take a selfie with your phone and send it to me. Why you may ask? This will be beneficial so that I can be prepared and work out lighting and posing ahead of time. Do you think you have a "best side"? Let me know during this initial call. Even if you tell me this, I will likely still ask you to take the selfies. Do you wear corrective lenses (glasses), please let me know. This affects how I light for the pictures so we can avoid lens glare.
  - I will follow up our discussion with an email confirming some of the details of our discussion and some helpful reminders and a contract to be signed and returned.
  - I will follow up with any questions I may have if needed.

## What do I need to bring to the session?

- Clothing – If your session involves more than one outfit, make sure you have it with you. If anything needs to be pressed/ironed you will need to do that before you get here. I would be happy to iron your clothes, but it will probably be the most expensive laundry bill you will get anytime soon. We will have discussed this during our initial discussions, but if you are shooting multiple outfits, keep in mind what changing will do to hair and make-up. Pulling a close to the neck shirt or sweater off over your head may turn a good hair/make-up day into a bad one in a hurry if not prepared (see below).
- Hair & Make-up – **You are responsible for your hair and make-up.** You may want to bring you comb, brush, or any hair product you may need for any final touches you want to do. A stray hair or two is not an issue during editing, but I cannot style hair after the fact on the computer. If this is a major shoot for a special event or company marketing material, you may want to consider a make-up artist for your shoot. This is an additional expense that you pay, but may be well worth the money in the end. For most people this is not needed, but if you are the head of a company, or if the picture is going to be blown up to a larger size such as a marketing sign, or billboard, consider it. This means you “guys” as well. If you decide a make-up artist is a good idea, I will work with you to find someone who can handle the requirements for your session.

## What is included with the session?

- In all sessions you get my undivided attention during your shoot time as you would expect. That may be as little as 15-30 minutes for a corporate head shot or a social media profile picture. It would be normal for up to an hour or more for individual or family portraits depending on the shoot, but regardless, we will discuss and agree upon upfront.
- Depending on the type of session you schedule, you will receive a set of final images. The number of images, may vary by the type of session you have purchased. A vary basic headshot may result in 1 - 2 final images. A portrait session would result in 5 – 10 final photographs. Family sessions will most likely be more than 10.
- Your photos will be edited with my Level One edits. This includes reviewing the pictures and making adjustments to color temperature (how warm or cool the picture looks), exposure levels, proper cropping, removing minor blemishes and the occasional stray hair. Level Two edits are offered at an additional cost and is charged per photo paid in advance of work. This would include much more detailed work on hair, adjustments to skin tone and color blending and any minor contouring. Level two should be seriously considered in situations where you will be making a large print to hang on a wall or corporate marketing materials. Why the additional cost? The simple answer is time. Keep in mind that these higher-level edits are very detailed. It is not uncommon to work on a photo for up to an hour to get the photo completed and done properly. This is very suitable for again, corporate executives, large pictures on marketing materials, enlarged portraits or that one photo you want to add the extra touch to.

### **Do I get to choose the photos I want?**

- In a portrait session, as an example, I may take 100 or more photos with the goal of getting you a selection to choose from for your final edits that you have paid for. For that portrait session, we may have 15 pictures in the proof gallery for you to choose from for your final 5 edited pictures. You will have the ability to review the proof gallery and let me know which you want taken to final edit. The proofs will be view only through a password protected gallery on my website and will have the company watermark. Final pictures will not have watermark upon download or the final prints you order.

### **Can I have all the pictures you take?**

- The short answer is no. I only select the best pictures to be in the proof gallery for you to choose from. The pictures that don't make the cut will not be shown. There are always pictures that are not acceptable for many reasons, closed eyes, pose out of position, lighting is not right, etc.

### **What does this cost?**

- This is the most common question, that is why I put it last. I feel that it is important for you to see and understand the process to understand the costs for a great portrait. The cost is composed of two parts, a creative fee which covers the taking of the pictures and the second part is how you want to receive them. Receiving the pictures can be received by digital download or have them printed through my website where the pictures are printed at a professional printing lab to ensure the highest quality. Finally, you can do a combination of both. Creative fees start at \$125 with an average total spend of \$200 -250 for total cost when you factor in print delivery or digital download. Corporate headshots will, in most cases have a lower total cost because it involves fewer shots and time. If you want pricing for company photos, contact me and I can work up a quote for you once I have the details. I will go over the options with you so we can customize the right set up for you.

### **What can I do with these pictures?**

- Unless previously agreed upon, the pictures are for your personal (non-commercial) use only. Corporate headshot and profile pictures are exempt from this restriction. I maintain ownership and copyright on all pictures. If you choose digital downloads for some or all of your final selections you will be provided a print release. If you choose to have your pictures printed somewhere else, you will most likely be requested to provide a copy for them to keep so you will want to make copies. Personal use means you can post any pictures you purchase to your social media accounts, email to friends and family, or print for your own use. What is not allowed under a personal use contract, is to use pictures for business, advertising, or commercial purposes. Get with me with any questions you may have and we can work out the details.