



Birth Photography FAQs

Why hire a birth photographer?

- I've heard many mothers express regret over not having many (or good) pictures to remember their birth process or their first moments as a new family. Sure, you can have a family member snap photos, but your husband or partner will be busy supporting you, and grandparents may be watching older children, not feel comfortable being in the room with you, etc. Plus, hospital lighting tends to be atrocious, and most basic cameras (and camera operators) can't/don't know how to handle low lighting conditions present much of the time. If you want high quality photos of your labor and birth, you will need a professional who is dedicated to capturing the very best images of you without being distracted by other personal/family needs. That's where I come in! I will be like a fly on the wall during your labor and birth process, capturing the details you wouldn't see otherwise and making sure that you have lots of memories from this special time for your family!

Do you take pictures of the whole labor and birth?

- Each labor is different. Prior to your delivery, we will discuss what is important to you and what you most want captured as part of your birth story. I will capture as much or as little as you desire, as long as I am not restricted by medical personnel due to circumstances beyond my control (such as, you require an emergency C-section and I am not allowed in the operating room). You and your family are always free to ask me to step out at any time if you feel the process is distracting to your labor, despite my best efforts to remain "invisible!" Women may become very sensitive during labor and your comfort is the most important thing. I will remain available to resume photographing your story as soon as you are comfortable again.

Will you post the photos on the internet?

- Your privacy is of the highest importance to me, and because some of your images may be sensitive in nature I won't share them without your consent. Images from your Birth Story will NOT be posted publicly without your permission. If you give permission, a sneak peek of very modest images will be posted on Facebook prior to completion of your full preview gallery, which is password protected. After you've viewed your preview gallery, I can remove any images you aren't comfortable with so you can share the gallery with friends and family if you desire. All images will be included on your flash drive for your personal use.

Will we meet before the birth?

- If it is feasible, I would love to meet you in person to discuss your wants/needs in person and also to help you and your family feel more comfortable on the day of your baby's delivery. Meeting for coffee/tea for a brief chat to go over any questions or concerns, discuss policies, and formalize your appointments can be scheduled at your convenience.

When do you show up?

- Generally, I will wait until you are in active labor and dilated somewhere between 5-8cm to arrive at the hospital. If you have previously had fast labor, etc. I may arrive sooner. You will have my personal cell phone number to notify me as soon as you are admitted into the hospital, and provide me with updates as needed to determine when I should arrive.

How long will you stay? What if I have a long labor?

- Again, each labor and delivery is different and that is expected. I will take breaks as needed but make every effort to remain close by throughout the process. After the birth, I will remain for approximately one to two

more hours (depending on hospital procedures and circumstances) to capture the first images of your little one and your family.

What if I have a short labor, will I get any of my money back?

•The session fee is not time-based, it is based on being on call for the period of time around your due date (which means I cannot take vacation, plan a weekend getaway, etc.) and photographic services provided. You are not charged extra if your labor is long, and you are not entitled to a refund if your labor is short. At minimum, I will probably be with you and your family for four to five hours even if you have a short labor.

What if I have a c-section?

•You need to find out if your hospital will allow me in the OR, some have a limit on the # of people. Some may make exceptions on a case by case basis. It is not guaranteed that I will be allowed in, but this is something you should ask beforehand in case the need arises, and make sure your husband/support team knows your wishes so they can advocate for you (and me) in the moment.

Will I have to get approval from my hospital?

•Yes. Some hospitals have written policies against photographing the baby being born, but don't implement it (or certain medical providers may not want photos). You should ask your hospital and medical team if a photographer is allowed during the process. I cannot issue you a refund if you do not check in advance and I am not allowed in your delivery room on the day of your birth story because I have already set aside this time for you. In this unfortunate scenario, I would remain at the hospital and capture as much as I could before and after the birth when you are allowed visitors.

What if you miss the birth?

•I am on call for you 24/7 and will do my very best to make it when you tell me it is "go time!" If I am ill or incapacitated, I have a backup photographer and will make every attempt to get your birth story covered. Your session fee is non-refundable, but if for some reason I am unable to photograph the birth, for ANY reason (don't make it to the hospital in time, you forget to call me, act of nature or illness, etc), the funds are transferable to a newborn session or baby package.

When should I book you?

•As soon as you have decided to invest in birth photography, you should book your session. Without several weeks advance notice, I may not be able to block out my calendar for any travel or any personal event that cannot be rescheduled. Once you have paid your deposit, I will clear my schedule for three weeks before and ten days after your due date to ensure I am available. If you change your mind after you've paid your deposit, you will receive a refund for any monies paid over the deposit but the deposit is non-refundable; however, it can be applied toward any maternity or baby session or package.

Do you offer discounts or take payments?

•Birth photography is certainly an investment, time commitments and stress levels are comparable to wedding photography, if not more intense! I do offer a \$100 Birth Photography discount if you have also booked a maternity session and/or baby package. I am happy to set up a payment plan for birth photography packages. Your final images will not be delivered until your session fees are paid in full.

Do you use a flash? What if I want my birth dark?

•I will have a flash available with me because many hospital rooms are very dark and poorly lit. I will generally not use it unless absolutely necessary, and will cease using it if it bothers you. If it is too dark in the room and I am unable to use flash, I may not be able to get pictures of certain things.

How many photographs will I get?

•This will vary depending on the length of your delivery. On average, you will get around 75-150 photographs.

How long will it take to get my photographs?

•Your images will be ready in approximately four-six weeks, and your flash drive will be available within two weeks of your gallery viewing. If you order a custom album, this takes approximately four weeks for printing and delivery.

Will they be color or black and white?

•Most images are black and white. This provides a timeless look and feel, and also presents your story without the distraction of sometimes unflattering hospital lighting, blood, etc. Some images will be in color, particularly those after the birth of family and friends meeting your baby and posing with your new family.

Do I get a CD of all my images? What if I want prints?

•All packages come with a flash drive (longer lasting than a CD) of your images. These images will be print quality up to 8x10 and contain a print release allowing you to make your own prints for personal use only. Your flash drive will also include watermarked, low resolution images for sharing online via your own blog, Facebook, or other social media site. If you desire an enlargement larger than 8x10 you may order that from your online viewing gallery. If you desire to use the images for commercial or other non-personal use, you will need to request my permission.

If you have additional questions or concerns not mentioned here, please feel free to contact me by phone or email at 615.202.6207 or mcallahanphotography@gmail.com and I'll be happy to chat!