Posing Guide for Hospitals
What to do when a NILMDTS Photographer is *not* Available

Although our goal is that no family in need of our services will go un-served, as an all-volunteer organization, we unfortunately cannot guarantee that a photographer will be available to help every family. Occasionally one of our volunteer photographers may not be available to take photographs. What can you, the medical professional do in this situation?

- Contact a NILMDTS affiliated photographer IMMEDIATELY as soon as find out that your institution may have a loss, before presenting NILMDTS to your family. This will allow us more time to find a photographer for your family.

*If a photographer is still unavailable here are some suggestions:*

- Can the photographer help the family later in the evening or even the next day? Maybe the funeral home?
- Does your hospital department or families have a digital camera? If so, begin taking photographs - and take several. To assist you, several posing options are included in this document.
- Contact NILMDTS headquarters for retouch services. A retouch artist will then electronically send the family their completed images. *Note: the Request for Retouching Consent Form must be signed.*

**How to Send in Photos for Digital Retouching**

*For Images Taken by the Hospital for the Family*

1. Before sending images, **back them up** on your computer and create a CD of them for your records. Just in case.
2. The family will receive the NILMDTS gift of digital images, professionally retouched images, converted to black & white or sepia tones, with a print release, sent typically within 4-6 weeks of sending the images to us.

**How to submit your images:**

- **SUBMIT NO MORE THAN 15 IMAGES.** All retouch requests MUST be submitted with the completed and signed NILMDTS retouching consent form when submitting images to retouching@nilmdts.org.
- Prior to submission, please scan any printed images to high-resolution digital images.
- **Save as a jpg.** If they are not in high resolution, you can scan them in as high resolution at a print shop. *NOTE:* Retouching results may be limited due to the loss of resolution and quality in the transition from print or film to digital. DRA’s will do their best, given the quality of the submission.

Either attach the images via email or mail a disk or memory card of the images to our office.

- Make sure you have them backed up on your computer before sending to us.
- Include the retouching consent form.
- If mailing a disk or memory card, please send to: NILMDTS, 7853 E. Arapahoe Court, Suite 2150, Centennial, CO 80112

**Questions?** Please contact us 720-283-3339 or email: headquarters@nilmdts.org.
The Eight Suggested NILMDTS Poses

1. Baby alone
2. Mom and baby
3. Dad and baby
4. Parents together with baby
5. Siblings with baby

6. Entire family with baby
7. Extended family with baby
8. Support items in the room
   (additional suggestions below)

The eight suggested poses list are merely an ideal “wish” list; rarely will you find a scenario where each of the items above can be checked off and accomplished. We have photograph examples on the attached Hospital Poster.

Support Items in the Room

Look around the room for things that will help create a complete memory of the day’s event. Parents are often times in such shock that they cannot even remember the obvious things. Capturing the complete story will help them deal with the grief and better connect them with the experience.

BABY CLOTHING:
Examples: booties, hats, and baby outfit

RELIGIOUS MOMENTOS:
Examples: rosary, cross, Bible, prayer stone, baptism certificate, etc.

FLOWERS/GIFTS:
Examples: flowers, baby blankets, and stuffed animals are appropriate.

PARENTS WEDDING RINGS:
Having a familiar object in the image helps to provides “scale”. It is hard for parents to remember just how small their child was.

HOSPITAL MEMORABILIA: Try and photograph all of the paper work that is on or near the bed. Examples include:
- Birth or death certificates
- Mom and baby’s hospital ID wristbands
- Little hand and footprints
- Room Signage