

June 2nd, 2020

Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: Guidelines for Professional Photography

As a working photographer, I have found there is much confusion with how photographers fit in to the Government's framework for reopening the economy.

Photographers are responsible for documenting important events including Weddings, Family Events, Family Portraits, Newborn Portraits, Animal Portraits as well as other genres including Fine Art, Architectural, Boudoir, Commercial Events/Service, and Product Illustration.

I am requesting that the photography industry be specifically mentioned in the Ontario Government's detailed lists of Stage 2 and 3 openings and that the attached Guidelines created by the Professional Photographers of Canada (PPOC) be considered for adoption.

I am anxiously awaiting the opportunity to return to my photography business, while respecting the existing regulations. I look forward to future announcements including professional photography as a service which may resume.

Sincerely,

GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING THE PHOTOGRAPHY INDUSTRY

STAGE 2

To facilitate the reopening of a photography business, the business owner must have a COVID-19 policy in place and posted on their website and in their studio/office, if applicable. They must be prepared to share their policy with potential clients upon request.

Continued protections for vulnerable populations and the practice of physical distancing, hand washing, and respiratory hygiene must be addressed by the business owner.

- **Portrait Sessions**
 - May be photographed outdoors where physical distancing can be maintained.
 - If for multiple people, the number of people must stay within existing gathering limitations, including the photographer.
 - These guidelines would apply to animal portraits as well.
 - Newborn Photography would not be permitted in stage 2.
- **Weddings or Events**
 - May be photographed in primarily outdoor locations where physical distancing can be maintained, within existing gathering limitations, including the photographer.
- **Commercial**
 - Physical distancing must be maintained.
 - Existing gathering limitations, to include the photographer, must be applied.
- **Other**
 - Commissioned photography that does not include people or animals may resume.

STAGE 3

The business owner must have a COVID-19 policy in place and posted on their website and in their studio/office, if applicable. They must be prepared to share their policy with potential clients upon request.

Continued protections for vulnerable populations and the practice of physical distancing, hand washing, and respiratory hygiene must be addressed by the business owner.

All types of photography*, including in-studio or indoor-on-location may resume, provided continued protections for vulnerable populations and the continued practice of physical distancing, hand washing, and respiratory hygiene have been addressed.

Any existing gathering limitations, to include the photographer, must be applied.

- ***Newborn Photography**
 - Because touching the subject cannot be avoided, strict measures must be followed, including the use of PPE.
 - Photographer must develop a COVID-19 policy/workplan specific to work with newborns that is in accordance with provincial government restrictions.