Model Release
and Usage Agreement

REFERENCE NUMBER

ATTACH A PHOTO OF THE MODEL

This agreement records who took the photographs, who appears in them, and how they may be used. Fill it in and sign it before the shoot, one model per form. Write dates in full with the month as a word, for example 14 March 2027. Do not cross out anything; if something is wrong, start a new form to avoid later disagreements. The separate instructions sheet explains each section and the extra steps some countries require.

01 Photographer and Model Information

Photographer

NAME / BUSINESS NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

PRIVACY CONTACT (IF DIFFERENT)

CLIENT (IF ANY)

Model

FULL NAME (AS ON ID)

PROFESSIONAL NAME (OPTIONAL)

DATE OF BIRTH

EMAIL

PHONE (OPTIONAL)

ADDRESS

COUNTRY AND STATE/PROVINCE OF RESIDENCE

The model is 18 or older: ☐ Yes ☐ No (a parent or legal guardian also signs, see section 08)

02 Shoot Details

SHOOT DATE(S)

SHOOT COUNTRY AND REGION/STATE

SHOOT DESCRIPTION (SETTING, LOOK, WARDROBE)

Media: ☐ Photos ☐ Video ☐ Audio or voice

The shoot includes: ☐ None of these ☐ Implied nudity ☐ Lingerie or swimwear ☐ Medical or health ☐ Pregnancy

☐ Religious dress or ceremony ☐ Other: _____

If any of these apply, the model also answers consent 7.1. Explicit nude or adult work needs a separate adult-content release.

03 Consideration (What the Model Receives)

FEE PAID (AMOUNT AND CURRENCY)

PRINTS OR FILES (HOW MANY, WHO SELECTS)

DELIVERY DATE

The model has received the fee and items above, or they will be delivered by the date shown.

The model may use the images for: ☐ Personal use only ☐ Their own portfolio and social media, crediting the photographer

The model may not sell or license the images. If no fee is paid and the model lives in England, Wales, or Northern Ireland, sign as a deed with a witness present (section 09).

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04 Permission to Use

Mark Yes or No for every row. A blank row means No. The model initials at the bottom of the table to confirm every row has an answer.

USE		YES	NO
4.1	**Photographer's portfolio and website** Printed and online portfolios, and pitches to clients.	☐	☐
4.2	**Photographer's social media and self-promotion** The photographer's own accounts, newsletters, and ads for their services.	☐	☐
4.3	**Competitions, exhibitions, and photo books** Contest entries, gallery and festival displays, and the photographer's books.	☐	☐
4.4	**Editorial use** News, magazines, blogs, books, and education, including their covers.	☐	☐
4.5	**Commercial use by the named client** The client's website, brochures, catalogs, and internal use.	☐	☐
4.6	**Advertising** Online, social, print, outdoor, TV, and video ads.	☐	☐
4.7	**Fine art prints and merchandise** Prints for sale, posters, cards, calendars, apparel, and other goods where the image is the product.	☐	☐
4.8	**Packaging and point of sale** Product packaging, labels, and in-store displays.	☐	☐
4.9	**Endorsement or testimonial** Uses that suggest the model uses or recommends a product, service, or brand.	☐	☐
4.10	**Stock licensing** Licensing through stock agencies to buyers who are not known today.	☐	☐
4.11	**The model's name** The model's legal or professional name shown with the images.	☐	☐
4.12	**Video and voice** Video footage and voice recordings from the shoot.	☐	☐
4.13	**Sensitive subjects** Illustrating health, mental health, sexuality, religion, politics, crime, or addiction, with a caption saying the person is a model.	☐	☐
4.14	**Standard retouching** Color, cleanup, skin retouching, cropping, background compositing, and added text or graphics. AI uses are covered only in section 06.	☐	☐

Model's initials (every row answered) _____

Term ☐ No time limit, where the law allows ☐ Fixed term of _____ years ☐ Until _____

Territory ☐ Worldwide ☐ Only in _____

If the model lives in China or Quebec, choose a fixed term. A permission with no clear end date can be canceled at any time in China.

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05 Terms

In this section, "I" means the model, and the guardian on the model's behalf if the model is a minor.

5.1 Permission. I give the photographer, and anyone the photographer licenses, permission to take, keep, edit, and use photographs, video, and voice recordings of me from the shoot in section 02, only for the uses I marked Yes in section 04, for the term and territory stated. This is a license. I do not sell, assign, or give up my image rights.

5.2 Sub-licensing. The photographer may pass these permissions to clients, stock agencies, and their customers, but only within the uses I marked Yes.

5.3 Editing. The photographer may make the edits in row 4.14 if I marked Yes. AI uses are governed only by section 06.

5.4 Uses never allowed. No one may use the images in a pornographic, defamatory, or deceptive way, to suggest I support a political party, candidate, or cause, or in any use I marked No.

5.5 Approval. I do not need to approve each use this release permits. I may review any digital replica made under section 06.

5.6 Copyright. The photographer owns the copyright in the images. I do not claim copyright in them.

5.7 Claims. I will not bring privacy, publicity, passing off, or false endorsement claims against uses this release permits. Where image rights cannot be waived in advance, this clause records my consent.

5.8 Withdrawal. This permission is meant to last for the term stated. Where the law of the country I live in lets me withdraw it, I can do so by writing to the photographer at the contact in section 01. Withdrawal works only for the future: after 30 days' notice, no new uses will start. Uses already published, printed, broadcast, or licensed before then may continue to the end of their license, copies already distributed will not be recalled, and the photographer may keep archive and legal records. If the law of my country requires me to compensate the photographer for withdrawing, I will repay the fee pro rata and any documented costs already committed.

5.9 After death. This release binds my heirs and estate to the extent the law allows.

5.10 Governing law. This release is governed by the law of the country, and state or province, where I live, as stated in section 01, unless we both choose another law in the line below. The mandatory privacy and personality rules of my country still apply.

Other governing law agreed by both of us (optional): _____

5.11 Whole agreement. This form, with any rider signed with it, is the whole agreement about these images. Changes must be in writing and signed by both of us. If any part is invalid in my country, the rest still applies.

5.12 Advice. I had the chance to read this release and to get independent advice before signing.

BEFORE YOU USE THIS FORM

This form is a general template, not legal advice. Laws on image rights, privacy, minors, and AI differ between countries and change often. Have a lawyer where you work review it before you rely on it, and read the instructions sheet for country-specific steps.

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06 AI, Digital Replicas, and Biometrics

AI uses are not allowed unless the model marks Yes and initials the row. A blank row means No. Rows 6.3 to 6.6 are not available for minors.

Assistive AI editing: AI tools that clean up, extend backgrounds, remove objects, or retouch without materially changing identity, body shape, or expression. **Generative alteration:** AI that creates new poses, settings, wardrobe, or expressions from the images. **Digital replica:** a realistic computer-generated version of the model's face, body, or voice showing them doing or saying something they did not do. **AI training:** using the images, or data from them, to train, fine-tune, test, or evaluate a machine-learning model. **Biometric processing:** extracting face geometry or face templates to identify, verify, or reproduce the model.

	PERMISSION	YES	NO	INITIALS
6.1	Assistive AI editing	☐	☐	
6.2	Generative alteration of the images If Yes, describe: project, client or product line, media, term, and fee.	☐	☐	
6.3	Digital replica creation and use If Yes, describe: intended uses, number of outputs, term (24 months or less suggested), a fee paid as if the model had appeared in person, notice before creation (48 hours suggested), and the model's right to review outputs.	☐	☐	
6.4	Voice cloning or synthetic voice If Yes, describe the same details as row 6.3.	☐	☐	
6.5	AI training If Yes, describe: who may train (photographer, named client, or stock agency dataset programs), whether outputs may look like the model, and the fee.	☐	☐	
6.6	Biometric processing If Yes, describe: purpose, who processes the data, and the deletion date.	☐	☐	

Did the model have a lawyer or union rep for this section? ☐ No ☐ A lawyer ☐ A union or guild: _____

6.A Labels. Any AI-altered or synthetic image of the model is labeled as AI-generated where the law requires, and Content Credentials or similar provenance data are not removed.

6.B Never allowed, even with a Yes. Sexual or nude synthetic images beyond what the model agreed to be photographed in; deceptive, defamatory, or political-endorsement uses; endorsements outside the product line described above; and any use depicting children.

6.C Stock agencies. Stock agencies may license submitted images as AI training data under their own terms. If row 6.5 is No, the photographer uses every opt-out the agency offers and does not submit the images to dataset programs.

6.D Withdrawal. The model may withdraw rows 6.2 to 6.6 for the future, in writing. After notice, no new replicas, training, or biometric processing will start, and paid campaigns may run to the end of their term. Removing images from an AI model that is already trained may not be technically possible.

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07 Privacy Notice and Optional Consents

Privacy notice for the model

To read only. Nothing in this box is filled in. The model keeps a copy of this page.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	The photographer named in section 01, using the contact details given there.
WHAT DATA	Images, video, voice, name, contact details, date of birth, signature, and reference photo. Sensitive data only if section 02 flags it.
WHY, AND ON WHAT BASIS	To produce, deliver, and license the images for the uses marked Yes (contract). To keep a portfolio, an archive, and records for legal defense (legitimate interests). The optional consents below (consent).
WHO RECEIVES IT	Clients, stock agencies and their customers worldwide, printers, platforms, and cloud storage and editing providers.
TRANSFERS ABROAD	Data may go to other countries, including the United States, with legal safeguards where the law requires them.
HOW LONG	Images for the license term. Original files as proof of authorship for the copyright term. Unused outtakes are deleted within the period the photographer sets below this box. This release is kept for as long as any image is licensed, and for a minor at least until they turn 21.
YOUR RIGHTS	Access, correction, deletion, restriction, objection, portability, and withdrawal of any consent, without affecting past use.
RIGHT TO REFUSE	You do not have to be photographed. Without the core release the shoot cannot go ahead. Refusing any optional consent has no effect on the shoot or your fee.
HOW TO COMPLAIN	First to the photographer, then to the data protection authority where you live.
AUTOMATED DECISIONS	No automated decisions or profiling are made about you.

Photographer fills in before the shoot: unused outtakes are deleted within _____ months.

Optional consents. Each one is separate and can be withdrawn at any time by writing to the photographer. Leaving a row blank means No.

	PERMISSION	YES	NO	INITIALS
7.1	**Sensitive data** Explicit consent to sensitive data shown in or inferred from the images. Required if section 02 flags sensitive context.	☐	☐	
7.2	**Transfer abroad** Consent to transfer the model's data outside the model's country.	☐	☐	
7.3	**Public publication** Consent to the model's images being made public.	☐	☐	
7.4	**Stock descriptors** Consent to optional descriptors, such as ethnicity or heritage, for stock search.	☐	☐	
7.5	**Brazil (LGPD)** Specific, highlighted consent under the LGPD to the uses marked Yes, which the model can revoke free of charge.	☐	☐	

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08 Parent or Legal Guardian

Fill this in if the model is under 18, or a minor where they live (19 in South Korea and some Canadian provinces). Each parent or guardian below confirms: "I am the parent or legal guardian of this minor and have authority to sign for them. I sign as a party to this agreement on the minor's behalf."

	FULL NAME	RELATIONSHIP	DATE OF BIRTH	EMAIL OR PHONE
Parent or guardian 1				
Parent or guardian 2 (recommended)				

The minor: ☐ Also signs section 09 (usually from age 13 or 14) ☐ Had the release explained to them on _____

Parent's or guardian's ID checked: ☐ In person ☐ On a video call ☐ Through an e-signature ID check

☐ Other: _____

COURT OR AUTHORITY APPROVAL NUMBER (IF REQUIRED) _____

RENEW CONSENT FOR ONLINE USES BY (OPTIONAL) _____

No location, school, or routine details of the minor will be published with the images.

09 Signatures

Sign by hand in ink, or draw the signature with a stylus or finger on a screen. A typed name or a click is not enough for stock agencies. By signing, each person confirms they have read this agreement, had the chance to ask questions, and agree to it.

Model

SIGNATURE _____

PRINTED NAME _____ DATE _____

Photographer

SIGNATURE _____

PRINTED NAME _____ DATE _____

Parent or guardian 1

SIGNATURE _____

PRINTED NAME _____ DATE _____

Parent or guardian 2

SIGNATURE _____

PRINTED NAME _____ DATE _____

Minor (if signing)

SIGNATURE _____

PRINTED NAME _____ DATE _____

Witness (an adult, not the model or photographer)

SIGNATURE _____

PRINTED NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ DATE _____

E-SIGNATURE APP _____ DATE AND TIME _____ SIGNING RECORD ID _____

☐ Quebec: J'ai reçu la version française et je choisis expressément d'être lié(e) par la version anglaise. I received the French version and expressly choose to be bound by the English version.

☐ Signed as a deed in the presence of the witness above (UK, when no fee is paid)

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How to Use *the Model Release*

Keep this sheet for yourself. Do not give it to agencies, and do not attach it to the signed release.

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BEFORE YOU USE THIS FORM

This form is a general template, not legal advice. Laws on image rights, privacy, minors, and AI differ between countries and change often. Have a lawyer where you work review it before you rely on it. It was prepared from research current to November 2026.

A Filling It In

01 **One model per form, before the shoot.** Give the model time to read it, and a copy afterward.

02 **Give each release a reference number,** for example your initials, the date, and a number. Add the number to each image's metadata, and photograph the model holding the signed form.

03 **Write every date in full** with the month as a word, for example 14 March 2027. Shoot dates must match the dates in the image files.

04 **Answer every Yes/No row.** Nothing is pre-ticked, and a blank row means No. The model, and any guardian, initials every page.

05 **Never correct the form.** Agencies reject releases with crossed-out or whited-out text. Start a new form instead.

06 **Sign by hand or with a stylus,** and add an adult witness who is neither the model nor the photographer. Adobe Stock requires a witness.

07 **Keep the release** for as long as any image is licensed. Keep a minor's release at least until they turn 21, because in Australia a minor can sue for invasion of privacy until that age.

08 **Translations:** keep English side by side with the other language, as Shutterstock requires. In Quebec, give the French version first.

B Who Counts as a Minor

A parent or legal guardian signs if the model is a minor where they live. Check the age locally before the shoot.

18	Most countries, including Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan (since 2022), Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Spain, the UK, most US states, and the UAE (for contracts made from June 1, 2026; it was 21 before).
19	South Korea; British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon. Some US states differ, including Alabama and Nebraska.
21	Mississippi and Puerto Rico, per common references. Confirm US state ages locally.
Minor signs too	Quebec, Spain, and Italy: from 14. Germany: the minor co-signs from about 14 in practice. France: involve the child according to age and maturity. South Korea: under 14 needs verified guardian consent.

Read the case behind this form: Amy Taylor and Jamie Nelson Settle Photo Lawsuit: What It Means for Photographers, on retouchingacademy.com.

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C Country Notes

United States	Use a written, signed release before any commercial use. California: for valuable work with minors, consider court approval so the minor cannot cancel later. New York: for fashion and commercial models, complete row 6.3 fully and sign it separately from any agency agreement. Illinois: no biometric processing unless row 6.6 is Yes.
Canada	A guardian signs until 18 or 19, depending on the province. Quebec: give the French version first or side by side, complete the language election in section 09, choose a fixed term, and tell the model how to withdraw.
Brazil	Use permission language only; image rights cannot be sold or waived. Complete consent 7.5. At least one parent signs for a child. Paid content about a child's daily routine may need a court authorization. A second witness can make the contract easier to enforce.
Mexico	Section 07 serves as the privacy notice. Mark portfolio use (row 4.1) explicitly. Professional performers: AI uses need stated conditions and payment, and advertising runs are limited to 6 months unless renewed and paid.
France	Choose a fixed term. Both parents sign for a minor, and the child is involved. Check employment and child-model rules if the model is employed.
Germany	State the fee. The contract is the data protection basis. Both parents sign, and the minor co-signs from about 14. Consent can be withdrawn only for an important reason.
Italy	The model can withdraw at any time, even after payment. Clause 5.8 sets compensation.
Spain	Use the words "consentimiento expreso" in a Spanish edition. The model can withdraw but owes damages. For a minor not mature enough to consent, notify the public prosecutor (Ministerio Fiscal) in writing first; they have 8 days to object.
United Kingdom	The contract and the privacy notice work together. If no fee is paid, sign as a deed with a witness present. Children have privacy rights even in public places.
Australia	Keep minors' releases until at least age 21. A Children's Online Privacy Code is due by December 10, 2026.
New Zealand	No extra steps found. Check privacy notice and minors' rules locally.
Japan	Verify a guardian's consent for under-18s by more than a checkbox, and state the purposes concretely.
South Korea	A guardian signs under 19. Record how the guardian's identity was checked. Consider a Korean and English edition.
China	Choose a fixed term and list every use. AI editing of face or voice (rows 6.2 to 6.4) and biometrics need separate consent.
India	The guardian signs as the contracting party for anyone under 18. Data protection notice and consent duties apply from May 13, 2027. Check stamp duty.
Singapore	The model can withdraw consent with reasonable notice; clause 5.8 covers this.
UAE	Sign before shooting: taking or keeping photos of a person without consent is a crime. A guardian signs until 18 for contracts from June 1, 2026. Consider an Arabic edition.

D Stock Agency Checklist

One model per release. Handwritten or stylus signatures. Full dates with the month as a word. Shoot dates that match the image dates. No corrections. Contact details in Latin script. The witness block filled in for Adobe Stock. A multipage release uploaded as one JPEG for Shutterstock. The release ID in the image metadata. Many No rows may make images unsuitable for royalty-free stock. Ask the agency whether it accepts a release with a withdrawal clause (5.8), and check Getty Images and iStock requirements before submitting; some agencies prefer their own forms.

E Check With a Local Lawyer

These points could not be fully confirmed in November 2026: exact US state ages of majority; Brazil and Mexico statute wording, including Mexico's May 2026 change to its copyright law on images; Quebec and Canadian consent ages; French child-model rules; New Zealand notice and minors' rules; China's rules on publishing personal data; India's stamp duty; UAE Arabic-language and data rules; and whether a foreign governing-law clause holds against local privacy and personality rules.

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