

# Model Releases



Rebecca in Black Hat © Susan Cowles, APSA, EPSA



Tired Fireman  
© Larry Cowles, FPSA, GMPSA



Judy in Gold  
© Jan-Thomas Stake, GMPSA

Why does the *PSA Journal* require model releases for certain images? The simple answer is to protect the publication (and the photographer) from being sued by the subject. If an image contains a recognizable person and is not a news or editorial image, the *Journal* will require a model release: this includes model portraits and some travel images. A model release, known in similar contexts as a liability waiver, is a legal release typically signed by the subject of a photograph granting permission to publish the photograph in one form or another.

In general, if you are attending a public event, such as an air show, Renaissance Faire, sports event, etc., releases are not required for pictures of the participants who have a reasonable expectation of having their picture taken and published. Or if you come upon a photojournalism happening (an accident, war theater, etc.), releases are not required. “In short, photojournalists almost never need to obtain model releases for images they shoot for (or sell to) news or qualified editorial publications.” (Wikipedia)

Brenda Tharp author of *Creative Nature & Outdoor Photography* tells us that “for photos that will be used in commercial applications—ads, brochures, posters, greeting cards, catalogs, postcards, kiosks, trade shows, websites, etc.—you will need a release from your subject in order to be legal.”

The *PSA Journal* requires that all portrait photographers should have signed model releases from their subjects. This is also true of travel images that are more portrait in nature and do not depict a “time and place.”

Simple model releases are available online for free and it is good to get in the habit of obtaining them and carrying them with you for the purpose of obtaining permission to use the images for publication or exhibition.

It is very disappointing for the *PSA Journal* and the photographer to have an image refused for publication because a model release is not available. This includes images sent to the *Journal* as part of an article and images used from the PSA International Exhibition and the *PSA Who’s Who in Photography* publication.

# MODEL RELEASE FORM

For valuable consideration received, I grant to \_\_\_\_\_ (“Photographer”) and his/her legal representatives and assigns, the irrevocable and unrestricted right to use and publish photographs of me, or in which I may be included, for editorial, trade, advertising, and any other purpose and in any manner and medium; and to alter and composite the same without restriction and without my inspection or approval. I hereby release Photographer and his/her legal representatives and assigns from all claims and liability relating to said photographs. I am 18 years of age or over.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

If the model is less than 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must also sign. I am the parent and/or guardian of the minor named above and have the legal authority to execute the above release. I approve the foregoing.

Parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Photographic Society of America makes no warranties or representations in connection with these releases. Consult your attorney if you have any legal questions regarding the release.

## Short Model Release Form

(This non-proprietary document sample is provided as is by Wedding Photography Directory. You are free to edit or redistribute.)

I hereby give permission to \_\_\_\_\_ to use my photos and likeness in all forms and media for advertising, portfolio, demo, trade, stock photography, editorial, altering without restrictions, and all other lawful purposes. I understand I am entitled to no compensation. I release the photographer all forms of claims and liability related to my photo usage.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_