

## Booking Agreement

Payment is due at the event, and can be paid to the assistant, or to Mermaid Dalni at the end of the event. Cash or check is fine. Checks can be made out to “Danielle Ross.”

Some venues have a “no-tail” policy. Please let the pool staff/beach staff know that you have booked Mermaid Dalni. It is your responsibility to verify that the venue allows the use of tails, and monofin flippers for the children (if applicable).

During indoor pool parties, please ensure that mermaids are able to secure private areas to change so your child does not see us out of costume. If you have us booked for an outdoor pool party, or a private home party, you must provide mermaids with a private area to change.

We ask that you not enter the pool until your booked time as venues typically allow mermaids to enter early and be waiting for the party guests. If the event is in your home, please keep the children together in one area until the mermaid is ready. Similarly, at the end of the event please ensure that the children are away from the mermaid so Mermaid Dalni may take off her costume to exit without breaking the illusion.

Lifeguards are not babysitters. They are available to protect your child, but there are no eyes like your eyes when it comes to your child in the water. We ask for your cooperation in supervising the children, and being sure ratios are maintained (lifeguards will inform you of the ratio), and all pool (or beach) rules are respected by all guests.

When the swim part of the party is finished we ask for your patience while we transition to the party room (or area that you have designated for the party). Depending on the venue this can sometimes take up to 15 minutes. However, it generally takes that long for children to change into their dry clothing. If for some unforeseen reason the transition time is too long, mermaids will stay longer for your party whenever able.

We may post photos from our birthday parties to either our website, or Facebook page. We post them with privacy in mind. If there is a guest who does not want to be in an image that may appear online please let us know. If you give us permission to share a few of your images, you maintain the right to change your mind at a later date and we will comply.

If you have decided to rent or purchase a mermaid tail or fin for your child; signing this document will act as a waiver. You understand that tails and monofins are to be used with caution under adult supervision and a strong swimming level. A child should be able to swim independently or wear flotation devices.

Mermaids are used to dealing with many behaviors in all age groups of children. However, if you see a child harming us in any way (pulling at our hair or earrings, biting,

hitting, spitting etc), or being destructive to our costumes (gentle touching and pulling of tails is encouraged, biting, picking apart, or ganging up to pull the costumes off is not), or trying to pile more than 1 or 2 children on a mermaid (we give mermaid rides and will go over those rules with the children) we ask for your support, understanding, and assistance in redirecting the behavior. Occasionally if a child's behavior is severe enough and redirection is not working, mermaids may break character to enforce safety and listening. Mermaids may also involve other parents or lifeguards for help. Children may also be approached by our assistant to help encourage respect of the mermaids.

It is not necessary that the children believe the mermaids are real. However, we ask for your help in maintaining the idea because we strive to encourage imagination and play. It can be extremely undermining to an event if adult guests start asking loud questions about our costumes, or break the illusion by announcing the mermaids aren't real. We have found in the past that this will often lead to behavior problems where children will gang up on mermaids and the main focus of the event instead of having fun, is heckling the mermaids about being real. We want your kids to pretend and play. If it becomes clear they aren't willing to play along, we simply ask them that if they choose not to believe or not to use their imagination, that they don't ruin the fun for younger children who enjoy it. This usually works. If you see a child who is fixated on this topic to the point it is distracting the mermaids from being able to entertain guests, we ask that you intervene in a similar manner or redirect the child.

If any intentional harm is brought to the mermaids by children (after a reasonable effort to get them to stop) or intentional damages to our costumes occur (e.g. pulling off fins, breaking flukes by stomping on etc) you may be liable for an additional fees for compensation.

The mermaids will not tolerate any form of sexual harassment from guests or clients.

Failure to follow our behavior guidance policy may result in the mermaids leaving a booking before it has ended, and clients being charged the full amount plus damages.

The mermaids are like any other professional you would hire and are required to be treated with respect at all times to ensure their personal safety. The best way to enforce this is to be watching children during the party and make sure parents understand the expectation of involvement. Feel free to forward them our booking agreement.

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

Disclaimer: Portions of the booking agreement are taken and/or adapted from the Halifax Mermaid's booking agreement. Find their original agreement here.  
<http://halifaxmermaids.weebly.com/booking-agreement.html>