



Client-Midwife Contract

The client (print name) _____ and the midwives (we) at Highland Midwife Birth Services agree to the following terms and conditions for the provision of midwifery services by the midwives:

Midwives

The owners of Highland Midwife Birth Services (Lorri E. Carr, LM CPM LDM and Eudine Stevens, LMT LDM CPM LM) are both nationally certified, and each are licensed by both Washington and Oregon to practice midwifery. They have received formal midwifery education and clinical training as outlined in the “Informed Choice for Midwifery Care” document in the client welcome/handout packet, and the resumes posted on their website. Their professional goal is to exceed the standards of care for medical obstetrics, while offering clients the maximum flexibility in their own care. They are preceptors for midwifery students in training from several colleges, and are usually assisted by at least one student midwife. They have arrangements with other area midwives to provide backup care in the rare event that neither is able to attend a birth.

Services provided

The midwives will provide you with standard prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care, including:

- Physical assessment with blood draws, cultures, and ordering of same;
- Prenatal checkups: once every 4 weeks until 28 weeks, then every 2 weeks until 34-35 weeks, and weekly thereafter until delivery;
- Nutritional counseling, and suggestions for vitamin and herbal supplements;
- One postpartum home visit for mother and baby within 24-72 hours of delivery, including newborn screening if desired;
- Postpartum visits in office for mother and infant at approximately 1 week, 3 weeks and 6-8 weeks, including newborn screening and family planning / gyn follow-up;
- Use of our lending library throughout your care;
- Use of a birthing tub during your labor;
- 24 hour phone availability of your midwife(s) throughout your care;
- Any additional visits necessary through your period of coverage;
- Any referrals needed or wanted (including for ultrasound), or transfer of care as needed.

Initial consultation

A free initial consultation is provided to determine your compatibility with midwifery care. The following topics are discussed: general health history questions; the risks of childbirth and homebirth to the mother and infant; management of complications in an out-of-hospital setting; how labor and birth differs in a hospital birth; your reasons for choosing out-of-hospital birth and midwifery care; arrangements for backup medical consultation and/or transport. Ample opportunity is provided for prospective clients to ask questions.

Client history and screening

In the selection and treatment of clients, the midwives rely on the client's medical history and information provided by the client and from previous healthcare providers. The client agrees that such information will be complete and accurate to the best of her knowledge. The client understands that certain aspects of her health history may preclude her from midwifery care and home birth.

Transfer of care

The client understands that certain complications or conditions may develop during pregnancy, birth, and/or postpartum period that require transfer of care to a medical provider and/or facility. We do our best to provide adequate information in a timely manner in the event of a transfer of care.

Back up medical care

We have a consultation relationship with a qualified obstetrician, certified nurse midwife, and naturopathic physician, and also refer to a perinatologist for evaluation when indicated. If any significant deviations from normal develop, the appropriate specialist will be consulted. Clients are expected to choose their own pediatric care provider and have them in place before the birth. If transport to the hospital during labor and birth is required, the attending midwife will stay with you if able, though medical decisions will be made solely by the client in conjunction with the medical providers at the receiving facility.

Pediatric care

Midwives can provide well-baby check-ups during the first eight weeks postpartum, as well as lactation consultation. The client should make long-term pediatric care arrangements prior to delivery. Midwives can provide newborn screening per state guidelines, vitamin K prophylaxis, and eye medication prophylaxis. We do not offer vaccinations.

Use of medical records

The client authorizes the midwives to have full access to her medical records for clinical management, research, and statistical purposes, provided her privacy is protected. Participation in out-of-hospital midwifery statistics project occurs only after consent of the client.

Assistants and student midwives

The client understands that the attending midwife will usually have at least one trained assistant midwife and/or student midwife with her at the birth, and at most office visits. This is both for the client's safety and to train new midwives. Senior students who have achieved the level of "Primary Under Supervision" are qualified to manage appointments and deliveries, and are encouraged to do so. We make every effort to arrange for the client to meet all potential assistants prior to birth. We are respectful of the intimacy of birth, and are committed to training students with the same high standards and philosophy of care.

Consent to treat

The client gives her consent to the midwives to care for and treat her during the course of her pregnancy and birth until conclusion of care at eight weeks postpartum. This will remain in force unless the client informs the midwives of her intentions to seek care elsewhere, or the client is referred for care by the midwife. The client agrees to assume full personal and legal responsibility for her decision to have an out-of-hospital birth and to prepare properly for same.

Informed choice

The client has been informed of the midwives' credentials and scope of practice; the risks and benefits of out-of-hospital birth; and the limitations of midwifery care. The client has had ample opportunity to ask any and all questions pertaining to her midwifery care. This is outlined in the document "Informed Choice for Homebirth and Midwifery Care".

Payment for services

The client agrees to payment under the terms of the "Financial Agreement".

The undersigned have read and understood this contract, and have had their questions regarding its content fully answered.

Client signature _____ Date: _____

Midwife signature _____ Date: _____