



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 are Lorri Ellen Carr, *LM CPM LDM* and Rebekah Pierson, *CNM ARNP FNP*. They are both nationally certified, and licensed to practice midwifery in Washington. Lorri is also licensed in Oregon, and Rebekah offers full family practice, pediatrics, and gynecology in Washington. 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 websites. 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 lab 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, with the midwives alternating clinic days so you meet them both;
- Nutritional counseling, and suggestions for optimal vitamin and herbal supplements;
- One postpartum home visit for mother and baby within 24-72 hours of delivery, including newborn screening and pulse oximetry 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 with pap if desired;
- 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: nutrition; 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 refer as needed for consultation with qualified obstetricians and naturopathic physicians, and also refer to a perinatologist for evaluation when indicated. If any significant deviations from normal develop, the appropriate specialist will be consulted. 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

Both midwives can provide well-baby check-ups during the first two weeks postpartum, as well as lactation consultation, with optional feeding evaluations (including monitoring growth and weight gain) to 6-8 weeks. Both midwives can provide newborn metabolic screening per state guidelines, pulse oximetry, vitamin K prophylaxis, and eye prophylaxis medication. Lorri does not offer vaccinations; Rebekah does. The client should make long-term pediatric care arrangements prior to delivery, which Rebekah can provide as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

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 is anonymous, and is state mandated, but 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, and agrees to reasonably comply with their care recommendations. 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 further outlined in the document "Homebirth and Midwifery Care", which has been provided to the client in her handout packet.

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: _____