



## Midwifery in Colorado

**I. Legal Status:** Midwives in the state of Colorado are required to be “registered” with DORA (Department of Regulatory Agencies). There are “rules and regulations” governing how we practice, what we can and cannot do while functioning as a RM (registered midwife) in this state. I am also a LM (licensed midwife) in the state of Wyoming.

**II. NARM:** The North American Registry of Midwives’ **CPM** (Certified Professional Midwife) title, which is a National certification, is accepted by the state of Colorado as “credentials” for being registered in the state.

**III. Parent responsibility:** As you may be aware, homebirth may not be readily accepted by some in the medical community, although there are supportive doctors to be found. It is important that a special relationship exists between you and your midwife. A midwife attending homebirths is often risking herself to help provide you with the birth you want. You need to support her by taking responsibility for the care you receive and being well read and informed about the choices you are making. You are ultimately responsible for your birthing experience, regardless of where or with whom you give birth. You must work in a partnership with your midwife, one that involves mutual trust and respect.

## Introduction

Birthwise, represented by Barbie Burrage, CPM, RM, LM, is a midwifery service offering prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care to pregnant women and their newborns. It is my philosophy that birth is a normal and natural life event; that pregnancy is a journey and birth can be life changing. I believe that women know their own bodies best and are best served in pregnancy through gentle guidance and information. I believe strongly in informed choice, which is an ongoing discussion about choices, options, risks, and your needs. I believe women need a care provider who is willing to listen, respect their needs and attitudes and who values honesty and compassion.

I see my role as primarily to educate and advise, while maintaining a watchful eye that all is progressing optimally. All choices are yours to make but I also believe my experience and training can be valuable to you during your birth. There may be a situation arise where I felt some course of action to be essential and you disagree, then I would have to respect your decision, but may ask you to sign a release form for my protection. There are certain protocols and procedures that I may be required to follow by the state and we will discuss these but the ultimate decision is always yours.

I believe that birth is a very intimate event in a couple’s life. You should be able to experience birth with pride and dignity. It should not be managed and manipulated by others; rather, you should be protected and supported, to allow your own instincts to aid you. I will do whatever I can to see that your baby’s birth is gentle and joyful for all present.

## Services Provided

As a CPM/RM, I provide comprehensive care to childbearing women from early pregnancy through the postpartum period. RM’s are licensed to perform all procedures necessary during the course of a **normal pregnancy, birth and postpartum period**. When the health of the mother or newborn deviates from normal, a CPM/RM/LM consults or refers clients to physicians. In an emergency, a CPM/RM/LM is trained and equipped to carry out life-saving measures.

Comprehensive prenatal, labor and birth care and postpartum care for you and your baby includes but is not limited to:

- Initial consultation
- Physical assessment and necessary, prenatal laboratory studies
- Regular prenatal visits including no less than:
  - Monthly until 28 weeks
  - Every two weeks until 36 weeks
  - A Home visit between 36-37weeks
  - Weekly visits from 36 wks to birth.
- Attendance at your labor and birth, unless care is transferred prenatally
- Comprehensive newborn exam
- Regular postpartum visits including no less than:
  - Home visit between 24- 48 hours after birth & a second visit between 3-5 days after birth
  - Office appointment between 2-3 weeks postpartum
  - Office appointment at 6 weeks postpartum

## Who I Work With

I may use an assistant at your birth. This will be either a trained birth assistant; another registered midwife or a midwifery student. If you request, I can provide referrals for doulas and postpartum assistants. If I am unable to attend your birth for any reason, I will ensure that another local midwife is available to assume your care.

## Physician Back-up and Hospital Care

Midwives are specialists in the care of women during normal childbearing. As such, we are trained to recognize and screen for potential problems and complications that might arise. Please review your handout "Indications for Physician Consultation or Referral" for a list of conditions or illnesses which require consultation and/or referral. If you require physician or hospital care during your labor or delivery, I will accompany you and remain with you if possible. However, the responsibility for your care will be transferred to the physician and hospital staff. All hospital and physician related expenses are separate and not included in our financial agreement.

## Medical Records

Your medical and midwifery records will be kept confidential unless a legal written authorization is presented.

## Discontinuation of Care

In the event that you are referred to another health care provider and do not continue care with Birthwise or choose to discontinue care for any reason before the birth, fees will be revised to reflect the actual amount of care received. (See Financial Agreement for details of fees.) Birthwise reserves the right to discontinue care if professional judgment so dictates. In these cases, a written discontinuation of care and a referral to another care provider will be provided.

## Your Responsibilities

- To become knowledgeable about the risks and benefits of out-of-hospital birth through independent study and discussions with the midwife. To complete a childbirth education class or demonstrate independent preparedness. To prepare for and commit to natural childbirth without the use of narcotics, sedative, or regional anesthesia.
- To provide complete and accurate medical, family, and personal history throughout care. To be honest in all dealings with the midwife. To actively participate in the establishment of a care plan for your pregnancy and birth by asking questions, researching options, and following the agreed upon care plan.
- To attend all scheduled appointments. To notify the midwife if you are unable to come or must reschedule. To come to appointments prepared with any questions or discussion items.
- To pay your midwifery fees on time according to the established financial plan.
- To prepare your home (or other birth site) as directed in handouts. To make provisions for the midwife and her staff at the birth. To arrange continued postpartum support for after the birth.
- To call immediately if you think you might be in labor, or experience any of the warning signs: vaginal bleeding, loss of fluid from the vagina, severe nausea or vomiting, severe headache, sudden swelling of face and upper body, visual changes, severely decreased or painful urination, chills or fever, sharp or intense pain, decrease in baby movements.

Signature of Client \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

