



Informed Consent for Services

Current as of April 1, 2008

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Primary Care Provider (if any): _____

Philosophy of Practice

We believe birth is a normal, healthy physical, social, and emotional process, and we expect it to be so throughout your experience with us. However, we recognize that complications can arise during pregnancy and birth, and when they do it is our job to restore normalcy when possible, and when not possible, manage the complication or get you to an appropriate medical care provider and continue to support you.

We believe your birth is a pivotal experience in your life with broad repercussions. We will work hard to make it exactly the experience you want it to be, and we support your right to determine your own health care and make decisions for yourself and your baby.

We believe the relationship between midwife and mother is very important, and can affect your birth. If you have selected a private midwife package, we expect your chosen midwife to provide all of your care. However, the other midwives may fill in on rare occasions when your midwife is not available.

We believe in training the midwives of the future, and we involve student midwives in the care of our clients. You have the right to exclude any, all, or specific students from your care or any aspect of your care. Your responsibility is to let us know your preferences.

Services Provided

We provide supervision, care and advice to women and babies during essentially normal pregnancy, labor, delivery, postpartum, newborn and interconceptual periods that is consistent with national professional midwifery standards. A legal description of our scope of practice may be found in Utah State Code Title 58, Chapter 77. Upon request we will provide you with separate documents describing the rules governing licensed direct-entry midwifery practice, including a list of conditions indicating the need for consultation, collaboration, referral, transfer or mandatory transfer, and our written practice guidelines.

Education, Training, & Experience

The midwives at BetterBirth, LLC are direct-entry midwives, not physicians and not certified nurse-midwives (CNMs). Our midwives are also Certified Professional Midwives, have met all education and training requirements for that credential, and meet all its continuing education requirements. For more information on these requirements, see www.narm.org. The student midwives of BetterBirth, LLC are working toward meeting all requirements for the CPM credential, but have not yet completed them. They work under the supervision of staff midwives who are CPMs. The table below summarizes the experience of the midwives at BetterBirth, LLC. "Primary" means the midwife was the primary person responsible at the birth. "Births" means all births attended by the midwife, whether in an observing, training, supporting, assisting, primary, or supervising capacity.

Midwife	Births	Primaries	Breeches	Twins
Suzanne Smith, LDEM #6077924-3400	864	732	10	7
Trinette Thompson, LDEM #5736412-3400	133	47	0	0
Brigitte Eastman, LDEM #304078-3400	135	30	1	3

Medical Transfer Plan

When you need or desire medical services we cannot provide, we will refer you to other care providers. If you transfer to the hospital during labor, we will contact a cooperating provider if possible, or we will make arrangements to use the provider on call at the hospital to which you will be transferred. Transfers to the hospital usually occur by private car, or by ambulance if needed. You may at any time change your maternity care provider or consult with another health care provider.

Legal Issues

Direct-entry midwifery and home birth are legal in Utah. We keep our practice within the limits defined by law in the Direct-entry Midwife Act (Utah State Code Title 58 Chapter 77). As required by Utah law, we will file a birth certificate with the state for your baby.

Malpractice Insurance

Malpractice or professional liability insurance is not available to direct-entry midwives in Utah. We are *not* covered by any such insurance.

Grievance Process and Peer Review

If you have a complaint regarding our services your first responsibility is to address it with us directly, in person, by phone, or in writing. If you are not satisfied with our response, you may file a complaint with the Utah Midwives' Association or with the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensure.

To assure quality care and continually improve our services, we periodically review difficult or unusual cases through the Utah Midwives' Association's peer review process, and/or within our own organization's peer review. All personally identifiable information is deleted in non-BetterBirth, LLC reviews to protect client confidentiality.

Parents' Declaration

We the undersigned realize that, as with birth in any situation or health care in general, there are risks associated with out-of-hospital birth, and no specific outcome can be guaranteed. We fully accept the consequences of our decision to have a midwife provide our maternity, newborn, or interconceptual care. We hereby release and hold harmless the midwives, students and company of BetterBirth, LLC from all liability--except in the case of gross negligence on the part of the midwife. We have received satisfactory answers to all of our questions regarding the education and qualifications of our midwife. We will be honest in all the information we give our midwife. We have read and we understand the Informed Consent for Services and accept our responsibilities as described in this document, and the services described herein.

Mother _____ Date _____

Father _____ Date _____

Midwife's Declaration

As a representative of BetterBirth, LLC, I agree to provide services as described herein.

Midwife _____ Date _____