



## VIRGINIA LICENSED MIDWIFE REGULATORY DISCLOSURE

Follow is a list of regulatory disclosures that I am required by the Commonwealth of Virginia to give all of my clients. Please read and maintain a copy for your records. On the last page is a place for your signature stating that you have received this information. Please print and return the last page.

### COMPLAINTS

If you have a complaint with the care I provide, my first request is that you discuss it with me, in person or in writing. If you are not satisfied with this you have the right, at any time, to file a formal complaint. This will initiate an internal investigation of my practice with the North American Registry of Midwives (my credentialing organization), the Virginia Board of Medicine (my licensing board), or both.

#### **To file a complaint with the North American Registry of Midwives:**

Formal complaints must be written and signed, and require the client to sign a records release before the peer review can proceed. Written complaints are sent through US Postal Mail (not email) to:

North American Registry of Midwives Accountability  
Shannon Anton, CPM  
PO Box 128  
Bristol, Vermont 05443-0128

For more information, please visit the NARM web site: <http://www.narm.org>.  
Additional questions may be sent via email to: [info@narm.org](mailto:info@narm.org)

#### **To file a complaint with the Board of Medicine:**

The Department of Health Professions receives complaints about health care practitioners (including Licensed Midwives) who may have violated a regulation or law. Complaints for all the licensing and regulatory Boards are received and processed by the Enforcement Division. The Department is responsible for administering the laws and regulations pertaining to health care practitioners, which may include conducting investigations of alleged violations. In order for the Department to initiate an investigation, the information it receives must relate to a law or regulation governing a specific regulated profession or facility. While a practitioner's action may be considered improper, unethical or otherwise deserving of corrective action, it may not be a violation of law. Complaints related to a Licensed Midwife's alleged violation of a regulation or law may be submitted to the Board of Medicine through the Enforcement Division of the Department of Health Professions in writing, by telephone, fax, email, or in person.



Virginia Department of Health Professions  
6603 West Broad Street, 5th Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23230-1712  
Telephone: 800-533-1560  
Fax: 804-662-7079

## GOING TO THE HOSPITAL

You may have given very little or no thought at all about going to the hospital to have your baby. As a midwife, I sometimes have to recommend that a woman or baby go to the hospital. If I do not feel absolutely sure that everything is progressing normally at home then I will let you know what my concerns are and why I think transport to the hospital would be safest. While I do not usually plan on going to the hospital, I am truly grateful that the expertise and technology is there if needed. Your feelings and desires are very important to me and we will make the decision together. Ultimately, my goal is to have a healthy mom and baby.

If the complication is not an emergency, (most of my transports are for non-emergencies) we will discuss the problem and decide when and where to go. I will call ahead and speak with the receiving physician about my expected needs for you and your baby. Based on that conversation and individual circumstances, we will either transport by car or in an emergency medical services vehicle. I will always accompany you to the hospital and stay with you throughout your care in hospital. I expect that we will be treated respectfully and while I cannot always guarantee that we will get a doctor who is happy to be working with midwives, I will always be your advocate and try to smooth over the transition from home to hospital.

If the complication is a true emergency we will call 911 for quickest transfer to an appropriate facility. I will also call ahead to the receiving hospital to share relevant information about the situation.

## MIDWIVES MODEL OF CARE

The Midwives Model of Care is based on the fact that pregnancy and birth are normal life processes. The Midwives Model of Care includes:

- Monitoring the physical, psychological, and social well being of the mother throughout the childbearing cycle
- Providing the mother with individualized education, counseling, and prenatal care, continuous hands-on assistance during labor and delivery, and postpartum support
- Minimizing technological interventions
- Identifying and referring women who require obstetrical attention
- The application of this woman centered model of care has been proven to reduce the incidence of birth injury, trauma, and cesarean section.

*Copyright (c) 1996-2005, Midwifery Task Force, Inc., All Rights Reserved.*



#### VIRGINIA BIRTH RELATED NEUROLOGICAL INJURY COMPENSATION FUND

Every year, a small number of babies are born with serious birth related neurological injuries. The Virginia Birth Related Neurological Injury Compensation Fund helps parents with financial burden associated with the life-long medical care that is needed for their child who suffered a brain injury at birth. The Program covers what insurance and other programs don't — medically necessary expenses such as medical care, hospital care, rehabilitation, in-home nursing care and more. More information about this program can be found at: [www.vabirthinjury.com](http://www.vabirthinjury.com). Physicians and hospitals that provide maternity services have the option to pay into the fund thereby making the benefits available to their patients. Not all physicians who provide maternity services choose to participate in the fund.

Currently, Licensed Midwives do not participate in the Birth Injury Fund due to the fact that the statute stipulates that babies who are born at home are **not eligible** for this program.

#### LIABILITY INSURANCE

I do not carry malpractice insurance. At this time there is no liability insurance coverage available for licensed midwives in Virginia who attend home births.

#### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Currently, Virginia law prohibits licensed midwives from carrying or administering controlled substances. This includes the following medications: oxygen, pitocin, Rhogam, newborn eye medication or newborn vitamin K.

#### HOSPITAL PRIVILEGES

As licensed midwives I attend only out-of-hospital births. I do not have hospital privileges at any hospital. In the event of transfer of care I will accompany you and remain with you in hospital but the hospital physician will be your care provider.



## Virginia Licensed Midwife Regulatory Disclosure

I have received a copy of the above disclosure.

I have been given the opportunity to ask questions and I understand the information.

- Experience and Training
- Complaint Procedure
- Midwives Model of Care
- VA Birth Injury Fund
- Controlled Substances
- Malpractice Insurance
- Copy of VA Licensed Midwives Regulations [http://  
www.ninemoonsmidwifery.com/resources.html](http://www.ninemoonsmidwifery.com/resources.html)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Name (please print)