



Informed Consent for Services

People choosing an out-of-hospital birth are trusting of their body's natural ability to give birth. Women have a natural ability to go through birth with little intervention. A carefully monitored out-of-hospital birth has been shown to be safe assuming the following three conditions are met:

1. The pregnancy and labor progresses normally, and with continual risk assessment remains low-risk.
2. An emergency plan is in place and has been discussed, and there is a hospital available if transport becomes necessary.
3. The birth is managed and monitored by trained birth attendants.

In assisting with your birth, your midwife will:

1. Maintain confidential client records according to HIPPA documenting all care provided to the client, including referrals to other providers.
2. Provide a copy of the Wisconsin Licensed Midwives Informed Consent form at the interview appointment. This includes your midwives' training, certifications, experience, and other practice disclosures.
3. Determine your eligibility through review of medical history, physical exam, lab results and existing support systems.
4. Provide ongoing assessment and evaluation throughout pregnancy, labor, birth and postpartum with careful attention to signs of normalcy and deviations from normal.
5. Provide information regarding procedures, treatments and medications to assist you in making informed choices regarding the course of your pregnancy, labor and birth. These consents will be signed and included in your chart.
6. Provide 24 hour on-call service for you for the duration of your pregnancy and postpartum period up to the final visit at 4-6 weeks postpartum.
7. Make every effort to arrive at your labor in a timely fashion or arrange for qualified alternative assistance in the rare event that your midwife is not available.
8. Arrange for a qualified midwife assistant to assist your birth in the rare occasion that two CPMs will not be available.
9. Consult with or refer you to medical services if any complication is detected, and initiate transfer of care as appropriate. If hospitalization becomes necessary during pregnancy, birth, or postpartum, the hospital provider will assume care. Your midwife will report to the appropriate medical staff and make records available to the attending physician.
10. Accompany you to the hospital if transfer becomes necessary during labor or immediate postpartum and will function as a labor doula, if you so wish.
11. Perform the state mandated newborn screenings within three days of birth.
12. File for the newborn's birth certificate and advise the parents of their responsibilities.

In choosing to birth with Trillium Midwifery Services, you will:

1. Make an informed decision to give birth in an out-of-hospital setting, having carefully considered risk factors associated with both in-hospital and out-of-hospital birth. The primary risk of out-of-hospital birth entails increased time to availability of specific emergency treatments: surgery, blood transfusion, intubation, and resuscitation medications.
2. Actively promote a healthy pregnancy by maintaining excellent nutrition and sound practices, including regular physical activity, avoidance of cigarettes, alcohol, cannabis and other drugs. Keep a schedule of regular prenatal appointments.
3. Supply records from other health care providers as requested.
4. Provide at least one support person whose main concern is to support you throughout the pregnancy, labor and early postpartum period.
5. Provide a second support person during labor and birth if older children may be present.
6. If choosing a homebirth, provide specific supplies requested (to be clarified by your midwife), and provide a relatively clean, organized, and smoke-free environment.
7. Inform your midwife immediately of any concerns or unusual circumstances of pregnancy, labor, or postpartum. These include psychological or emotional stress, unexplained pain, bleeding, discharge or leaking, or suspected labor.
8. Agree to transfer yourself and/or your baby to the appropriate predetermined medical service, if your midwife detects need for treatments or assessments that lie beyond her scope of practice as a Certified Professional Midwife.
9. Agree to pay for all midwifery services, according to the signed and dated fee schedule.

Most births proceed normally without any problems and require only support and guidance. There are a small proportion of pregnancies and births in which serious complications may develop. If you opt for an out-of-hospital birth, your midwives will discuss with you the risks involved and how they are usually handled.

Prenatal care, excellent nutrition, and careful monitoring during labor greatly reduce the chance that complications might occur. However, we cannot guarantee the outcome of your birth. We can only make judgments and give care based on our training and experience.

By signing the *Signature Page*, I/We acknowledge that I/we have read the preceding Informed Consent for Services. I/We fully understand the risks that may be involved with choosing to give birth in an out-of-hospital setting. I/We have had all questions answered fully, and request Trillium Midwifery Services to provide care for the pregnancy, birth and postpartum period.

Complaint Process:

If at any time you are unhappy with the care you are receiving, we invite you to discuss concerns you may have with us in an open and non-judgmental atmosphere. Formal complaints can be submitted in writing to a variety of agencies that oversee homebirth midwifery practice. These agencies include North American Registry of Midwives (NARM), Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Service (WI DSPS), and the Wisconsin Guild of Midwives. All three agencies have formal processes for reviewing complaints received. Midwives also participate, at a minimum, in bi-annual peer review where client cases are discussed among other midwives in a professional, confidential, non-punitive and educational manner.