

Informed Disclosure and Consent for Midwifery Care

Philosophy of Practice

Birth & Biodynamic Midwifery believes pregnancy and birth are normal processes, and thus expects them to be so throughout your experience with us. However, complications can arise and when they do it is a midwife's job to restore normalcy when possible, and manage the complication or get you to an appropriate medical care provider and continue to support you when not possible. 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. 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. We expect your team of midwives to manage all of your care, however, other midwives may fill in on rare occasions if no one from your team is available.

Services Provided

Birth & Biodynamic Midwifery provides 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 Virginia State Code Title 18 VAC 85-130-10 et seq, Statutory Authority: 54.1-2400 and Chapter 29 of title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia. Upon request we will provide you with separate documents describing the rules governing licensed direct-entry midwifery practice in Virginia, 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 midwife at Birth & Biodynamic Midwifery is a Licensed Midwife, not a physician. As a Licensed Midwife (who is also a Certified Professional Midwife) have met all education and training requirements for that credential, and meet all its continuing education requirements. For more information on CPM requirements, see www.narm.org. The table below lists the credentials and (Virginia) licensing status of the midwife at Birth & Biodynamic Midwifery and the year each started practicing:

Dominique Clothiaux LM, CPM (2019)

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 arrange 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

Certified Professional Midwives, home birth, and birth centers are legal in Virginia. We keep our practice within the limits defined by Virginia Midwifery law and the Virginia Board of Medicine. As required by Virginia law, we will file a birth certificate with the state for your baby. We are not covered by malpractice or professional liability 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 Virginia Midwifery Board, or the North American Registry of Midwives (at NARM Accountability, Shannon Anton, PO Box 128, Bristol, VT 05443). To assure quality care and continually improve our services, we periodically review difficult or unusual cases through the Virginia Midwives' Organization's peer review process or within our own organization's peer review. All personally identifiable information is deleted in non-Birth & Biodynamic Midwifery reviews to protect client confidentiality.

HIPAA and Confidentiality

Birth & Biodynamics Midwifery and its midwife are covered entities under HIPAA. We are committed to protecting the confidentiality of your records. We will not release your records to anyone without your consent unless required or allowed by law. We will release appropriate records to other healthcare providers who are involved in your care, such as consulting physicians or hospital providers in the case of complications or transfer.

Client's Declaration

I 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. I fully accept the consequences of my decision to have midwives provide my maternity, newborn, or interconceptual care, and to deliver in an out-of-hospital setting. I hereby release and hold harmless the midwives, students and company of Birth & Biodynamic Midwifery from all liability--except in the case of gross negligence. I have received satisfactory answers to all of my questions regarding the education, qualifications, and practice of the midwife and Birth & Biodynamic Midwifery facilities. I will be honest in all the information I give my midwife and Birth & Biodynamic Midwifery. I have read and I understand this Informed Disclosure and Consent for Midwifery and accept my responsibilities as described in this document, and the services described herein. If any party to this agreement takes legal action against any other, the losing party agrees to pay attorney fees and other reasonable costs of the prevailing party.

Client Signature _____ Date _____

Print Your Name _____

Your address and phone number _____

Primary Health Care Provider, if any _____

Midwife's Declaration: As a representative of Birth & Biodynamic Midwifery I agree to provide services as described herein.

Representative: Dominique Clothiaux LM, CPM, RCST Date: _____