



## Licensed Midwife Regulatory Disclosure and Consent Statements

By signing below you are acknowledging that you have received, read, understand, and will comply with the following regulatory disclosure and consent statements.

Licensed Midwife Regulations	Sign/date_____
Experience and Training	Sign/date_____
Emergency Transport Plan	Sign/date_____
Complaint Procedures	Sign/date_____
Midwives Model of Care	Sign/date_____
Virginia Birth Injury Fund	Sign/date_____
Malpractice Insurance	Sign/date_____
Controlled Substances	Sign/date_____
Hospital Privileges	Sign/date_____
Client Information Practices/HIPAA	Sign/date_____
Personal Responsibility Agreement	Sign/date_____
Financial Agreement (Seal)	Sign/date_____
Warning Signs & Symptoms	Sign/date_____
Prenatal Procedure Consent/waiver	Sign/date_____

## Experience and Training

**Misty Ward, CPM, LM, BS:** I began my path to midwifery at the age of 16 after I attended the birth of my nephew. At that time I began reading whatever pregnancy related books I could get my hands on. After high school I attended Eastern Mennonite University, where I majored for a time in Nursing with the plan of becoming a Certified Nurse Midwife. Not long into that program, I realized that the CNM certification and hospital-based practice did not fit into my philosophy of normal birth. I continued to attend EMU and in 2005, 10 days before the home birth of my second child, I graduated with a degree in History and minors in Biology and Psychology.

In late 2005 I began attending home births under the supervision of licensed midwives and documenting my experience and training as part of the requirements to acquiring the CPM (Certified Professional Midwife) certification through the NARM (North American Registry of Midwives) PEP Program. To supplement my homebirth training I volunteered and interned at several high volume birthing centers around the world. I spent time in the Dominican Republic with Medical Ministry International, El Paso, Texas at Casa De Nacimiento, and Senegal West Africa with the African Birth Collective. At this time I have attended more than 360 births. I received my CPM certification in February of 2010 and my Virginia license in March of 2010.

I am certified in CPR and neonatal resuscitation. I attend continuing education courses and several workshops each year and regular peer review. I am also trained as a Postpartum Doula by DONA. For more than 5 years I was the director of Birth Matters Harrisonburg, a chapter of Birth Matters Virginia. I currently sit on the Board of Directors for the Commonwealth Midwives Alliance as Director of Professional Accountability.

I have three children, Tsion (born 2003), Jonah (born 2005), and Holden (born 2014 in Willow Suite!) all born naturally.

### **Maya Hawthorn, CPM, LM, CLC, BA**

I have been studying midwifery since 2008 and began attending births in 2009, when I started apprenticing in Louisville, KY under Juliet Dietsch, CPM and Jennifer Woodmansee, CPM. While the majority of my training was in their small home birth practice, I also spent time in two different high volume birth centers: Better Birth in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Shiphrah Birthing Home in TayTay, Rizal, Philippines. In total I have worked and learned under 14 different midwives, attended over 150 births, and have been the primary midwife at 36 of those. In October of 2013, I sat for the North American Registry of Midwives exam, and passed, earning the title of Certified Professional Midwife. Shortly afterwards I applied for my Virginia License, and received that in December of 2013.

Along with my midwifery certification, I am also a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC). I particularly love caring for mom and baby in the postpartum period, and place high importance on providing breastfeeding support. I maintain my certifications in CPR and neonatal resuscitation, and I am a Birthing From Within childbirth preparation mentor as well.

My own daughter, Anna, was born at home in 2010.

### **Melaine Copeland – Senior Apprentice Midwife**

After the birth of my first child in 1994, I was hooked! I was blown away by the process, and in awe of the work my body had just done – first conceiving and then growing this amazing creature, and then going on to give birth to him, as well! As a direct result of the wonderful care provided to me by my birth team, I learned what a doula was, figured out a way to become one, and haven't really looked back since. I have added other hats, including Certified Childbirth Educator, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, and currently, Student Midwife.

My path as a student began in 1995, assisting at births with my own midwife, followed by the amazing opportunity to attend births over the years with 22 different midwives, resulting in my attendance at around 250 births. I have had the privilege of having formal apprenticeships with four VA midwives. Currently as a birth assistant and apprentice to Misty Ward, LCPM, and Maya Hawthorn, LCPM, I am drawing nearer to completing my own midwifery certification as a Certified Professional Midwife.

I have three great kids, born at home and homeschooled through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and a wonderful husband. We live and work and play on the North End of Harrisonburg.

### **Zazi Muller – Senior Apprentice Midwife**

My journey with midwifery has been lifelong. Born at home myself, I am the daughter of a midwife and a homebirth mother of three.

I am currently in the process of becoming a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) through apprenticeship to Misty and Maya at Brookhaven. I feel very fortunate, as I have a great respect for both as midwives and a sincere appreciation for the quality of care that we can offer through this birth center. I also enjoy my relationships with the staff and the dynamic group of women and their families that I am honored to serve. I am so grateful to these women who, by sharing their experience with me, form the major component of my education.

I created a foundation of commitment to out of hospital birth while experiencing prenatals, births, and postpartums as a young woman through my mother's practice, reading books from her library, and joyfully participating in family births. My children's gentle yet empowering births taught me more than I can say, and gave me a stronger desire to help give women the opportunity to have similar experiences.

I have furthered my education through a variety of study groups and workshops, attendance of Sacred Mountain Midwifery School (from which I graduated in 2009), and continued certification in Neonatal Resuscitation and CPR. I have attended 36 births (and rising!) with six different midwives, and have been at Brookhaven consistently since April of 2014 as well as for a brief time when the center opened. I'm so excited about the path ahead of me and am happy to be continuing it here.

I live with my family on a homestead in West Virginia and homeschool my children. I enjoy gardening, preparing natural and fermented foods, making body care products and textile arts, and using herbal medicines. I also practice bellydance and teach a beginner's class at Brookhaven.

## **Kai Lyons – Apprentice Midwife**

Kai, having grown up in the world of midwifery has had a passion for the life since a young age. She grew up in Charlottesville, Virginia with her midwife mother and physician father teaching her the many different ways in which you can care for people, and what it means to be a respectful care provider. After she graduated from UVA with a degree in Sociology she joined the Academy of Experiential Midwifery Education in Charlottesville, and for the past year has been studying with a group of women the art of midwifery. She is thrilled to be able to share in the experience of all the miracles that take place a Brookhaven.

### **Complaints**

If you have a complaint with the care we provide, our first request is that you discuss it with us, 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 our practice with the North American Registry of Midwives(our credentialing organization), the Virginia Board of Medicine (our licensing board), or both.

To file a complaint with NARM:

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

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

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

To file a complaint with the Board of Medicine:

The department of Health Professionals recieves complaints about health care practitioners who may have violated a regulation or law. Complaints for all the licensing and regulatory boards are recieved 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 investigations the information it recieves must relate to a law or regulation governing a specific regulated profession or facility. While practitioners action may be considered improper, unethical, or otherwise deserving of corrective action, it may not be a violation of law

Complaints related to a Licensd Midwife's alleged violation of a regulation or law may be submitted to the Board of Medicine through Enforcement Division of the Department of Heath Professions in writing, by telephone, fax, email, or in person.

Virginia Department of Health Professions Telephone: 1-800-533-1560  
6603 West Broad Street, 5th Floor Fax: 1-804-662-7079  
Richmond VA, 23230-1712

## **Midwives Model of Care**

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

The MMOC 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 women-centered model of care has been proven to reduce the incidence of birth injury, trauma, and cesarean section.

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### **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 burdens 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). Physician's and hospital's that provide maternity service have the option to pay into the fund thereby making the benefits available to their patients. Not all physician's who provide maternity services choose to participate in the fund. Currently, Licensed Midwives do not participate in the fund due to the fact that the statute stipulates that babies who are born at home are NOT ELIGIBLE for this program.

### **Liability Insurance**

We do not carry mal-practice insurance. At this time there is no liability coverage available for licensed midwives in Virginia who attend home or birth center births.

### **Controlled substances**

Currently, Virginia law prohibits licensed midwives from carrying or administering controlled substances. This means that we are not allowed to have oxygen, pitocin, rhogam, newborn eye medication, or injectable newborn vitamin K.

### **Hospital Privileges**

As licensed midwives we attend only out-of-hospital births. We do not have hospital privileges at any hospital. In the event of transfer of care we will accompany you to the hospital but the hospital physician will be your care provider.

## Personal Responsibility

We believe that pregnancy and childbirth are natural physical processes and in most cases when a woman is in good health and eats a nutritious diet, the possibilities of complications are very low. However, like all of life, pregnancy and birth are unpredictable and occasionally emergencies or defects occur. Midwives are trained to recognize abnormal conditions and are able to treat hemorrhage, shock, and seizure, and use equipment to resuscitate if needed. Pain medications, epidurals, vacuum extractor, forceps, and Cesareans are not available in an out of hospital setting. If an abnormal condition develops or these interventions become necessary, a doctor will be consulted or I will be transported to a hospital, whichever is most appropriate, in order to protect the health and safety of the mother and baby.

I understand that my midwife will need accurate and complete information about my medical and obstetrical history in her selection of treatment offered me. I affirm that this information is and will continue to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand the development of certain conditions during my pregnancy could be life threatening to me and/or my baby. I acknowledge that I have responsibilities in assuring a satisfactory outcome and agree to follow through with this additional list of items that will assist my midwife in her role of monitoring and assisting me/us through this wonderful life experience.

I will:

- \*Call immediately if I experience any of the Signs and Symptoms to Immediately Report to Midwife as described on form by same name
- \*Comply with the prenatal care plan developed with the midwife, which may include but not limited to dietary changes, taking recommended herbs or supplements, exercises or tests
- \*Eat a nutritious diet, rest and exercise as recommended
- \*Participate actively in my care by telling my midwife about my problems early
- \*Complete childbirth education or demonstrate independent preparedness
- \*Prepare to go through birth without narcotics, pain medications, epidurals
- \*Obtain the supplies and equipment needed for the birth, baby, and postpartum
- \*Ask question about anything I don't understand
- \*Notify midwife if I can't keep an appointment or make payments on time
- \*Make sure my baby is seen by a pediatric practitioner as the midwife advises. Make arrangements to get the hearing test done.
- \*Agree to hospital transport and/or transfer to physician care should complications preclude having my baby safely at home/birth center. Prior to 37 weeks, I understand that I may need to arrange other medical care myself and my midwife does not guarantee she will be able to accompany me. My records will be faxed upon request to the attending facility.

I have chosen to have our baby at home/Brookhaven Birth Center. I understand that there are special responsibilities and risks that this decision brings. Although many problems can be foreseen and screened for, there are some problems that cannot be predicted either in or out of

a hospital. I/we have been informed of conditions which our midwife may treat and are aware of others which she may need to consult with or transfer my/our care to a physician. I understand our midwife must work within standard of care protocols. If I decline to seek recommended medical care, our midwife may choose to immediately terminate care for me without other arrangements. I understand the hospital ER or the OB on call are available 24/7.

I realize that our choice of out of hospital birth is contingent upon the progress of this pregnancy, my compliance with the prenatal care plan and meeting my responsibilities as outlined above or discussed at my prenatal visits.

I have discussed the above issues with the midwife. I understand the unpredictable nature of childbirth and am/are willing to accept these.

### **Client Information Practices**

Our practice is dedicated to maintaining the privacy of your and your baby's health records. Each time we visit, a record of that visit will be recorded. We may disclose your individual identifiable health information in the following ways:

\*Recommendations-We will use your health information to document your continued health status as we work toward the goal of an out of hospital birth. We may ask you to have certain tests that will help us assess your health status. This information may be used to make recommendations regarding the maintenance of that status. It also may be available to others who could assist in your care, for example, the assistant who will attend your birth.

\*Payment-We may use and disclose your health information in order to bill and collect payment for services and items you received from us.

\*Health Care Operation-We may use your information to improve the operation of our business. For instance we may review your records in order to assess the quality of care you receive and the accuracy of the record.

\*Research- We may disclose your information to researchers if the research proposal has been properly managed for your privacy. You will be asked for specific permission if this should take place.

\*Communication With Other Health Care Providers-Our practice is limited to the care of healthy pregnant women and their infants during the childbearing year. If complications should develop at any time during the course your care, we may jointly decide that a medical consultation would be in order. If a transfer of care should arise you will need to sign a medical release form for your records to be transferred to another provider.

\*By Law-We may, for various reasons, be required to disclose your health information for reasons of law.

### **Your Health Information Rights**

Although your health record is physically property of the practice, the information therein belongs to you. As such, you have the following rights:

\*You may request to be contacted by alternate means or at an alternate location. Please make your request in writing.

\*You may request a copy of your health records, however is a fee of .10 per page after 20 pages. You have full access to your health records at all times through our electronic medical records system. At the beginning of your care you will be sent an email inviting you to access your records.

\*If you believe there is any information in the record that is incorrect or missing, you may request that we correct the existing information or add what you believe is missing. Please make your request in writing.

\*You have the right to a paper copy if this disclosure

\* We must obtain a written authorization from you to disclose information for purposes other than treatment, payment, or health care operations. You have the right to revoke this authorization, except to the extent we have already used or disclosed the information.

### **Changes To This Policy**

We may change or update this policy at any time. When changes are made you will be notified with an updated copy of our policy.

### **Financial**

Our fee for global maternity care that we bill insurance is \$4,500.00. This fee includes all of your prenatal visits, labor & delivery, and post-partum visits. If we are billing your insurance company we require payment of \$4,000.00 for a birth center birth and \$3,500.00 for a home birth. We also offer a self-pay discount to our clients that do not have insurance or the client has insurance that they would like to bill themselves. Our self-pay price for birth center birth is \$3,600.00 and \$3,200.00 for home birth. The balance is due in full by the 36<sup>th</sup> week of your pregnancy. If the fee has not been paid in full by the 36<sup>th</sup> week, the midwives cannot attend your birth, unless other arrangements have been made in writing. A non-refundable \$500.00 deposit is required at your first visit along with this contract. You may pay by check, cash, or credit card. Please keep in mind that there are separate charges for lab work and ultrasounds, and other additional testing (We will notify you if there is a separate charge BEFORE we run a test). We also offer water birth pool rentals for home birth for an additional \$100.00, and placenta encapsulation for \$150.00.

**Billing Insurance:** If you have insurance with maternity benefits, we will bill your insurance company. By entering into this contract, you authorize us to release health information to your insurance company for the purpose of processing your claims. Please note that there is no guarantee that your claims will pay, as some insurance plans cover midwifery services and some do not.

We may bill your insurance company for the following services related to your care including, but not limited to: Initial visit, global fee including delivery, intra-partum care, supplies, postpartum home visits, and facility fees for the birth center.

We will bill your insurance company for all applicable codes that represent the care we provide to you at usual and customary rates for those codes. The amount of the deposit has no bearing on the fees that we bill to the insurance company.

The deposit will be applied to the deductible and co-insurance amounts applied by your insurance company to our claims. If the insurance company pays us directly, you may be eligible for a partial refund of the deposit.

If your insurance company reimburses you directly, which is not uncommon, you agree to contact us immediately. We will determine how much is yours to keep and how much you should send to us. It is not legal for you to profit on your healthcare; therefore, any amount reimbursed by insurance that exceeds the deposit must be forwarded to us, along with applicable amounts to cover your deductible and co-insurance.

If it becomes medically necessary for you to transfer out of care before 36 weeks, we will calculate the services rendered and give you a figure for any amount still owed or will return any over payments. We will issue a check to you for any over payment within 60 days. These amounts will be calculated on the following: a \$500 non-refundable deposit, \$250 for your initial prenatal visit and \$200 for each visit thereafter. Normally, our care is a package that includes prenatal visits on a set schedule, but if needed you will be seen more often without extra charge, the birth, and the postpartum visits, also occurring on a set schedule with more visits occurring if needed. It is not usually broken down into components.

Please call within 24 hours if you must reschedule a visit or we may bill you a \$25 cancellation fee. We are certainly understanding of canceling last minute due to illness or family emergency, however if you simply do not show up you will be billed!

**In case of a transport to the hospital during the labor, birth, or postpartum the entire fee is still due, and if it is already paid, there will be no refund.**

To summarize your costs for midwifery care for your upcoming birth, you will need to plan for possible testing and supplementation as well as the needed birth supplies. The birth kit for home birth families which we ask you to purchase is around \$40 and many of the items needed for a home birth can be gathered from around your home. If you are birthing at Brookhaven Birth Center all supplies are provided.

I understand that if my account becomes assigned to a collection agency, I agree to pay all collection fees, court costs, and attorney fees.