

Comadres Midwifery Services Informed Consent

Shiela VanDerveer, CPM, LM

Welcome to Comadres Midwifery Services. This informed consent is designed to tell you more about who we are, to outline for you what kind of care we provide, and also to act as our contract for working together.

Who We Are

Shiela VanDerveer

Shiela has a B.A in Women's Studies and came to midwifery through a fifteen year long background of advocating for women's health on political, social and clinical levels. She became a licensed childbirth educator and doula in 1999 and has been attending births ever since.

She received her midwifery training through the National College of Midwifery and the Northern New Mexico Midwifery Center. During her time as an apprentice midwife, Shiela began The Gatekeepers Fund; a small nonprofit dedicated to advancing the midwifery model of care through community outreach and education.

Through the Gatekeepers Fund, She has provided midwifery care in areas of need such as post Katrina New Orleans and in Anapra; a barrio of Jaurez, Mexico. Both Comadres Midwifery Services and the Gatekeepers Fund is located in Taos, New Mexico.

Shiela is backed up by Sheri Raphaelson, who has been a Licensed midwife within New Mexico for fifteen years. She currently resides in Espanola. Together they provide homebirth services an hour's distance from both Espanola and Taos.

Our Philosophy

We are committed to establishing midwifery care as the standard of care during women's life cycles. Thus we serve families of all backgrounds and of all incomes and are committed to making midwifery care available to more women and their families. We believe in personalized, client centered healthcare as a basic human right and strive to partner with our clients in

making informed healthcare choices that are clinically sound and dedicated to improving perinatal outcomes.

As Certified Professional Midwives and/or Licensed Midwives, we are trained in low-risk pregnancy and birth management. Thus the scope of our care includes all women and families who are within a low-risk category during the prenatal, intrapartum (labor & birth) and postpartum periods. In deciding to have a homebirth, both parties are committing to a mutual process of informed consent. You, the client(s), are committing to being a responsible healthcare consumer by weighing the risks and benefits of your choices through every step of your care. We, your midwives, commit to fully informing you of your status and options, discussing the pros and cons of each option, and making an individualized care plan with you through every step of your pregnancy, labor, birth and postpartum care. As Certified Professional Midwives, we do not carry malpractice insurance.

We believe in the childbearing period as an exciting time that provides an opportunity for transformation on both personal and spiritual planes. We aim to support you as you create the birth experience that is right for you and your family.

Birth at home offers you preventative and individualized care, autonomy, privacy, and the undivided attention of your care providers.

Homebirth is a safe option for low-risk pregnancies.

What Our Care Includes

Our comprehensive midwifery care includes prenatal, birth and six weeks of postpartum care, as well as nutritional counseling including the use of herbal medicine, referrals and support for other desired or needed care including obstetrical or gynecological, chiropractic, acupuncture, cranial sacral or naturopathic support, risk assessment, appropriate diagnostic testing, birth preparations, newborn care education, breastfeeding support, family planning consultation and well woman care.

If in the event the transfer of your care is needed due to prenatal complications, non-compliance or a complication in your labor and birth process, we will assist you in the transfer process to another appropriate

healthcare provider. If the transfer is during your labor and birth, we will accompany you to the hospital.

We, the undersigned, have read, understand and agree to the above informed consent as our guide for working together and co-creating our birth experience.

Midwife

Client

Date

Partner/Support Person