

# comadres

Midwifery Services

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Congratulations on choosing a homebirth! It is our intention to provide your family with comprehensive, personal care throughout the pregnancy year. Midwives serve women and their families who are considered clinically low-risk. We hold the strong belief in pregnancy and birth as a normal, naturally occurring event and not a medical one. In this spirit, we will provide you with our scope of practice and educate you throughout the process with the goal of obtaining mutual informed consent.

In addition, many women find that issues concerning family influences, past experiences, and present circumstances surface during the pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period. These influences can affect decision making and we believe that open communication and a warm and trusting midwife/client relationship are essential to true informed consent.

Therefore we encourage you to give consideration in answering the following questions. The issues brought up in the form will be discussed in greater detail during your prenatal appointments. Feel free to add any further questions you may have to the end of the form. All information shared is confidential.

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\* What is the most important thing to you and your partner about choosing to have this baby at home? What are your biggest fears about having a homebirth? What makes you feel safe and desiring of being at home?

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\* Do you know your own birth story? Have you thought about how it has affected you? How do you or don't you see your birth story affecting the outcome of your birth experience? I encourage the partner to answer these questions as well.

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\* What do you see as the duties and responsibilities of your midwives?

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\* What do you see as you and your partner's responsibilities regarding your pregnancy and birth?

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\* What is your present understanding of complications that may occur during pregnancy or birth?

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\* Our society has many misconceptions about homebirth and independent midwifery and whether they are "wise choices" or "safe practices". You may find that family, friends and strangers respond to your plans to have a homebirth with comments like "but that's dangerous" and "why are you putting yourself and your baby at risk?". How would you respond to comments like these? What support, tools, or resources do you need in order to counter these myths and fears?

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\* How do you and your partner feel about going to the hospital if complications arise? What are your past experiences with medical professionals? Do you have negative or positive associations with hospitals?

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\* What are your plans to breastfeed?

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\* If you have a baby boy what are your thoughts and feelings on circumcision?

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\* What else would make you (and your partner) to feel safe in the process of your pregnancy and birth?

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Please feel free to share anything else you would like in the space below

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Thank you!

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