



# OHIO PHYSICIANS FOR MIDWIVES

[www.ohiodocsformidwives.org](http://www.ohiodocsformidwives.org)

## **Ohio Families for Safe Birth / Ohio Physicians for Midwives CPM Licensure Initiative:**

*Increasing Access to Out-of-Hospital Maternity Care Services through state regulation of  
Certified Professional Midwives*

### **MISSION**

The Ohio Physicians For Midwives (OPFM) is a community of health care providers and researchers from many specialties who support the midwifery care model.

Ohio Families for Safe Birth (OFSB) is a consumer-driven effort to create a statewide coalition of families and professionals promoting legislation and policies grounded in the Midwives Model of Care which support families' access to safe, appropriate, evidence-based care during pregnancy, labor, delivery and postpartum. Our purposes are:

- Supporting legislation that licenses Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) in Ohio;
- Raising awareness and support for families choosing an out-of-hospital birth as a safe, appropriate option;
- Supporting safe family and baby initiatives in all birth settings.

### **PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS in 2005, Ohio Department of Public Health Vital Statistics documented 969 home births in Ohio;\*

WHEREAS childbirth is a normal, healthy event for the majority of women, and includes important emotional and social components not usually addressed by hospital-based maternity care;

WHEREAS healthy women giving birth in hospitals are increasingly subjected to routine interventions, which may not be evidence-based or beneficial for their specific circumstances;

WHEREAS each woman and family is unique and deserves the maternity care provider and setting that best addresses individual needs and preferences;

WHEREAS the American Public Health Association supports efforts to increase access to out-of-hospital maternity care services and increase the range of quality maternity care

choices available to consumers, through recognition that legally-regulated and nationally certified direct-entry midwives can serve clients desiring safe, planned, out-of-hospital maternity care services;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS studies have demonstrated dramatically lower cesarean rates in out-of-hospital birth settings, an issue of great significance at a time when 29.3% of Ohio mothers are giving birth by major abdominal surgery with all of its attendant risks and the rising rate of cesarean sections nationwide is increasingly recognized as a serious public health problem;

WHEREAS Certified Professional Midwives are nationally certified providers of out-of-hospital maternity care services;

WHEREAS Certified Professional Midwives are licensed in 24 states;\*

**THEREFORE**, we the undersigned members of Ohio Families for Safe Birth support and acknowledge the following:

The interest of the State of Ohio in the health care of its citizens;

The right of the State of Ohio to regulate licensed professionals;

The right of parents to receive qualified care from a well-trained professional;

The right of families to choose safe alternatives to hospital birth including free-standing birth centers and home birth;

The proven safety of direct-entry midwife-attended birth;

The right of parents to choose a direct-entry midwife to provide care during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum;

The right of direct-entry midwives to practice without unwarranted governmental harassment;

The Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) credential as a mechanism to ensure entry-level competence of direct-entry midwives;

The implementation of legislation providing for direct-entry midwife licensure, using the CPM credential as a basis for licensure requirements in Ohio.

\* Statistics updated periodically

[1] American Public Health Association Position Paper 2001-3: Guidelines for Licensing and Regulating Birth Centers. APHA Public Policy Statements, 1948 to present, cumulative. Washington, D.C.



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## Endorsement Form

I have read and am adding my name as an endorser of Ohio Families for Safe Birth's initiative to pass legislation which licenses Certified Professional Midwives (CPM) by adding my name to the Ohio Physicians for Midwives Registry.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

What type of physician are you: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your name and contact information to be listed on the Ohio Physicians for Midwives web page?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Please list any degrees or credentials pertinent to your endorsement:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: this information is strictly for use by Ohio Physicians for Midwives. Your information will not be given out or used for any other purpose.

Please print this form and mail to: April Klein  
Ohio Families for Safe Birth  
367 Carlyle Circle  
Kettering, OH 45429

Important note: Do NOT return this form via email. We must have your signature on file.