



ARIZONA
W O M B
SERVICE
LLC

Midwife Disclosure

AZ Womb Service, LLC, Robin Sharples-Ray, Connie Canada and any assistant(s) offer you a statement of our philosophy of midwifery care, and a summary of our education and experience as it relates to midwifery.

What is a midwife?

Midwife means “with woman”. A midwife provides comprehensive care and education for women and their newborns, encompassing their physical and emotional needs and fostering self-determination throughout the childbearing year. Midwives practice in home, birth center and hospital settings. Midwives worldwide have an excellent record of safety with numerous studies associating midwifery care with excellent outcomes. In the five nations with the world’s lowest infant mortality and lowest rates of technological intervention, midwives attend 70% of all births without a physician in attendance.

The Midwifery Model of Care

The Midwifery Model of Care is based on the fact that pregnancy and birth are normal life processes. The Midwifery Model of Care 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; and identifying and referring the incidence of birth injury, trauma, and cesarean section. A **Direct-Entry Midwife (DEM)**, also often referred to as a lay or traditional midwife, is a midwife who enters the profession directly, getting her education/training through an apprenticeship or by attending a formal midwifery education program. The North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) has developed a certification process which provides an International Credential that promotes the Midwifery Model of Care. A midwife who has been certified through this process is a **Certified Professional Midwife (CPM)**. This is the only midwifery credential that requires experience in an out-of-hospital setting. There is also a new direct-entry credential created by the American College of Nurse Midwives, called the **Certified Midwife (CM)** which involves a course of study similar to that of nurse midwives but without the requirement to first become an RN. The state of Arizona provides a licensing program which entails a similar process as the _____ initials

CPM, but also includes testing on the Arizona state rules and regulations monitoring midwifery. A midwife may become a **Licensed Midwife (LM)** when passing this process. We have completed the licensing requirements for Arizona as well as the North American Registry of Midwives certification process. As midwives who attend homebirths, we assist in natural childbirth only. We are not doctors and we are not nurses. We have chosen to practice independently because we do not accept the definition of Midwifery as the practice of Medicine or Nursing. We believe Midwifery, Nursing and Medicine are separate disciplines.

Our Philosophy

We are committed to compassionate, women-centered care in which both midwife and mother are actively engaged in the decision-making process. We believe pregnancy and birth are healthy and normal events in a woman's life. As midwives we offer our skills, experience and loving attention as well as our deep trust in and respect for the birth process. We feel it is an honor and responsibility to nurture and create a safe space for the women we serve during the journey to motherhood. We recognize that in pregnancy, many women experience great physical, emotional, social and spiritual changes, and it is our intention to support women and families in this time of transformation. We expect mothers choosing homebirth are willing to take responsibility for their own health and well-being and of their baby. It is our hope in doing so, women will discover the power and potential, birth holds and carry it with them through out their lives. We also believe we need more midwives in this country and so we're committed to the apprenticeship model of midwifery training and to working with students in our practice. With your permission and under supervision, a student will participate in your care through out your pregnancy, birth, and postpartum period.

Education, Training and Experience

Robin has been involved in birth as a doula since 1990 (certified through Doulas of North America 1997-2011), childbirth educator since 1993 (certified through International Childbirth Educators Association 1996-2008) and has been assisting midwives since 2000. Robin was drawn into birth work through the births of her own children and the Lord. She received her training from direct entry licensed midwives in Arizona and through self study on various pregnancy, birth, newborn and postpartum related subjects. After a five year apprenticeship she became licensed and certified in 2005. Robin's certifications in CPR and Neonatal Resuscitation stay current. She also participates in continuing education with various birth related subjects through such organizations as Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA), Trust Birth Initiative, Midwifery Today, and Doulas of North America. Robin has supplemented her midwifery education by self-study of midwifery & obstetric texts and other books related to midwifery. Robin is also a member of the local midwifery group, Arizona Association of Midwives.

Connie has been involved in birth since 1986 when she took a position at a community hospital in California as a nurse's assistant in labor and delivery. Connie's position provided support for the birthing mom, her family and assisted the nurses. Connie later went on to become a childbirth educator, doula and a teacher for childbirth educators and doulas. She has been assisting midwives with homebirths since 2004. Connie received midwifery training through apprenticeship with licensed homebirth midwives and self study of all aspects of midwifery,

pregnancy, birth, postpartum care, well woman care and newborn care. Connie became licensed and certified in Arizona in 2009. She continues to further her knowledge by attending seminars, classes and advanced self study. Connie's certifications for CPR and Neonatal Resuscitation are always kept current. She is also involved in many educational and midwifery supported organizations such as North American Registry of Midwives (NARM), Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA), Trust Birth Initiative, Lamaze International, AZ Association of Midwives and her own company, Supported Birth of Arizona where she trains doulas, childbirth educators and supports all aspects of birth. She is a liaison and instructor for the Arizona Student Midwives organization which supports upcoming midwives with education and guidance.

_____initials

In Conclusion

Regardless of where you choose to give birth, and whom you choose to attend you, you must realize that ultimately you, as parents are responsible for creating a safe environment for your baby to be born. You must live with the results of any decisions you make regarding your care and your birth. You owe it to yourselves and your baby to make truly informed decisions. Whatever choices you make, it is our prayer and our purpose that your pregnancy and birth be healthy and joyous.

We have read and understand the above information about midwifery care, and the education and experience of Robin Sharples-Ray, and Connie Canada and have had the opportunity to have our questions and concerns addressed.

Client name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Partner name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____