



INFORMED CONSENT

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PREGNANCY!

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We at the Bozeman Birth Center are happy to be working with you. We are guided in our practice by Montana state law, local midwifery practices, and our experience and judgment. We specialize in normal pregnancy and birth. At the Bozeman Birth Center we are unable to attend breech (bottom down) or twin births. Also, if you begin labor before 36 ½ weeks of pregnancy or after 42 completed weeks of pregnancy, we will transfer your care to a medical doctor at a hospital. Midwifery care is appropriate for most women and most pregnancies.

EDUCATION

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Midwives are licensed by the state of Montana to practice Midwifery. We are nationally certified. We operate under strict protocols and guidelines.

ALTERNATIVES TO CARE AT THE BOZEMAN BIRTH CENTER:

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In this area pregnant women have many birth options. Obstetricians and Family Practice Doctors are available at local hospitals. One nurse-midwife and three direct-entry midwives offer home birth.

SAFETY

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Many studies have shown births attended by midwives have lower infection rates; fewer interventions (including fewer C-Sections), and over all healthier babies. There are NO studies that show increased safety risks for women or babies when healthy women pregnant with one full-term, head down infant choose to birth with a midwife in a birth center or at home instead of in a hospital. Most births are safe and crisis free. In the unlikely event of a complication, we are trained to respond quickly and effectively. Some complications require transport to a hospital and the amount of time it takes to get to a hospital and can add to the risk experienced. The Bozeman Birth Center is located 3 miles from Bozeman Deaconess Hospital and transport can be completed within minutes.

PHYSICIAN CONSULTATION:

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In the course of a normal pregnancy, we do not require that you consult with a physician.



LIMITED LIABILITY:

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In case of an emergency, any health care provider who renders care or assistance to the client of the Bozeman Birth Center is liable only for damages caused by gross negligence or by willful or wanton acts or omissions.

MALPRACTICE INSURANCE:

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Insurance is not available to us at this time. We do not carry any insurance to protect our midwifery practice. We are midwives because we believe that birth is a normal and natural process. We believe that it is the birthing woman and her family who bear primary responsibility for the outcome of the birth, and that we can share in the birth process by offering our experience and our support for the birth process. No person or location can guarantee a completely safe birth.

By signing, you are indicating that you are taking responsibility for your health and the health of your baby. It is your informed decision to give birth at the Bozeman Birth Center. You also understand the information provided in this document.

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____

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