



3333 Station House Road, Suite B \* Chesapeake, VA 23321 P: 833-JAMII4U (526-4448) F: (757) 859-0007

## Home Birth Contract

A safe birth requires the joint effort of both client and midwife, with good communication and shared responsibilities. To achieve this I, \_\_\_\_\_, and the Jamii Birth and Wellness Services midwives agree to the following:

### **The Jamii Birth and Wellness Services midwives will:**

1. Determine the client's eligibility through review of: medical history, physical examination findings, lab results, and existing support system. Services provided by Jamii Birth and Wellness Services are available to healthy, mobile clients experiencing normal pregnancy.
2. Provide the client with health care and guidance throughout pregnancy, labor, birth and the postpartum period as long as the pregnancy remains normal as defined by the midwife's scope of practice.
3. Provide ongoing evaluation throughout pregnancy, labor, birth, and the postpartum period with careful attention to signs of normalcy and/or signs of deviation from normal. All findings will be discussed openly with the client.
4. Provide information regarding procedures, treatments and medications to enable the client to make informed choices for care during the course of their pregnancy, labor, and birth.
5. Provide 24 hour on call service for the client during their pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum periods.
6. Provide care during labor and birth for clients:
  - Age 34 or under when birth occurs between 37 and 42 weeks gestation, depending on indications.
  - Age 35 to 39 with increased prenatal fetal surveillance when birth occurs between 37 and 41-42 weeks gestation, depending on indications.
  - Age 40 or above with increased prenatal surveillance when birth occurs between 37 and 40-41 weeks gestation, depending on the indications.
7. In the unlikely event that I am not able to attend your birth due to unforeseeable circumstances (another labor, inclement weather, personal illness, injury, or a family emergency), every attempt will be made to provide you with a competent and reliable backup midwife at no additional cost. If the midwife arrives after the birth because of rapid labor, delayed notification, traffic, or weather midwifery care during the postpartum period will continue.
8. Provide postpartum visits as indicated in the financial agreement.
9. Refer to client to other health care services if conditions or treatments are required that are outside the scope of the midwives' practice and discharge the client if appropriate.
10. If hospitalization becomes necessary during labor, birth, or in the immediate postpartum period, the client would be transported to the hospital according to Jamii Birth and Wellness Services established policy. The clients record would accompany them and will be made available to the accepting health care provider and hospital staff. The attending midwife and/or birth assistant would accompany the client to the hospital per hospital guidelines. Postpartum care will continue following hospital discharge.



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### The Client Will:

1. Make an informed decision to give birth outside of a hospital, having carefully considered the benefits and risks associated with both hospital and out of hospital birth. The client is encouraged to openly discuss these factors with the midwives.
2. Actively promote a healthy pregnancy by maintaining excellent health promotion practices including good nutrition, regular exercise, avoiding caffeine, tobacco, alcohol, other drugs, and keeping scheduled appointments.
3. Provide a primary support person whose main concern and role are to support the client throughout pregnancy, labor, birth, and the early postpartum period.
4. Request complete records from other health care providers if needed.
5. Attend preparations for childbirth classes with the primary support person. Keep in mind that Jamii Birth and Wellness Services does not offer epidural anesthesia, which is available only in hospital-based care period if this treatment is needed, a transfer to the hospital would be initiated.
6. Have requested supplies ready by the 36 week home visit.
7. Arrange for an adult (other than the primary support person) to be present for any small children who will be present at the time of labor, birth, and the postpartum period until the midwife and the birth assistant depart.
8. Breastfeed/chestfeed the newborn.
9. Arrange for a pediatrician to see the baby within 72 hours of birth.
10. Agree to transfer myself and/or baby to the hospital if the midwife detects problems that can be managed appropriately only in the hospital.
11. Agree to pay all additional fees incurred if transfer to accepting provider and/or hospital if necessary.
13. Complete full payment by 35 weeks gestation.

The undersigned have read and understood the above and is/are in agreement. A financial agreement will be attached. My questions have been answered satisfactorily.

Client Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Midwife Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_