

BirthWise in Birmingham Birth Doula Contract

Birth Doula Service Description and Agreement between _____ (Referred to as “Doula”) and

_____ & _____ (Hereinafter “Birthing Mother” or collectively as the “Parents”)

for the expected due date of _____.

Birth Doula Service Description

A birth Doula is a professionally trained childbirth assistant who sees the mother during pregnancy, labor, and after birth to provide emotional, physical, and informational support. During pregnancy, your Doula may assist you with discovering your options and preferences about childbirth. During your birth your Doula will offer information and support for comfort measures including but not limited to: breathing, relaxation, movement and positioning, using a birthing ball, massage, music, and visualization. Your Doula will provide encouragement and reassurance as your birth progresses. Your Doula will also assist in gathering information about the course of labor and your options.

From the moment this agreement is signed, your Doula will provide:

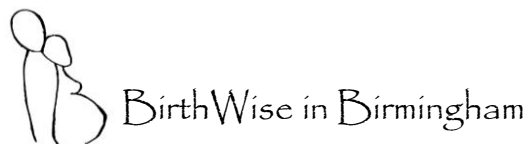
- Unlimited support via e-mail and phone answering any questions you may have
- One prenatal visit to discuss the birth
- Assistance with your birth plan and education about birth options
- Twenty-four hour on-call starting 2 weeks prior to your due date and continuing until your baby is born
- Continuity of care in your home and/or hospital once labor has begun and up to two hours after the birth of your baby. Your Doula reserves the right to call in a back-up Doula. You have the right to refuse back-up services
- A postpartum home visit to discuss the birth of your baby and any concerns you may have and to provide breastfeeding support/information/referral as requested
- A back-up Doula in the unlikely event that your Doula is unable to attend your birth

Limitations

- A Doula does not perform clinical tasks and is not a health care professional
- A Doula does not make medical decisions for Parents. A Doula will help Parents get the information they need to make informed decisions
- A Doula will not speak to medical staff regarding matters where health care decisions are being made. A Doula can discuss concerns with Parents and suggest options. A Doula can support Parents in discussions with staff as their advocate, making sure they have the opportunity to discuss concerns
- Your Doula will not take the place of other people you have with you for support, she will help them to help you

Client Responsibility

- We strongly encourage you, the Parents, to take an out of hospital childbirth class if you have not done so in preparation for a previous birth. This will significantly help you to meet your goals.
- You, the Parents update your Doula after visits with your care provider regarding any news about your pregnancy/birth
- You, the Parents make final decisions and/or research any suggestion provided by anyone concerning your care
- You, the Parents call your Doula when you think you may be in labor, even if you are not sure, or if your water releases. This will help ensure your doula makes it to your birth on time
- It is the Parents’ responsibility to ensure that your Doula is allowed to attend at all times while at the hospital
- You, the Parents understand that your birth may not go as planned due to circumstances beyond your Doula’s control



- You, the Parents, are responsible for your personal items/effects while at the hospital.

Fees

Doula fee is \$_____ for one prenatal visit, home and hospital labor support, and one postpartum visit. A non-refundable deposit of \$_____ (40% of total fee) is required at the time this agreement is signed and the remainder is due at the time of your prenatal visit and no later than 38 weeks. If you go into labor more than two weeks before your due date, the remaining fee will be due no later than seven days postpartum, provided services have been rendered.

Upon signing of this contract the deposit is non-refundable if the circumstances are beyond your Doula’s control, such as: Parents do not respond to Doula’s attempts at communication or Parents do not attend scheduled prenatal visits. Should your Doula need to terminate services at any time, your retainer fee will be returned, minus a fee of \$50 for time and costs. Parents can terminate Doula services up to one month prior to the due date and will not owe monies beyond the deposit. In the case of a client cancelling or failing to notify the doula or her back-up at the onset of labor after 36 weeks gestation, the parents will be responsible for payment up to the remainder of their fee according to the following schedule:

- 10% of total fee/week from weeks 36-37
- 20% of total fee/week from weeks 38-until the due date
- No refund is available if parents cancel or fail to contact the doula after the due date.

If a client should unexpectedly need to schedule a cesarean section *prior to the onset of labor*, a doula is still able to provide support for the family in the hospital before, during (contingent on physician discretion) and after the surgery, for which the remainder of the doula fee will still be due, or the client may cancel services according to the above schedule.

If a doula and her back-up are unable to attend a birth due to circumstances beyond the doula’s control (extremely rapid labor, extreme weather, etc.), 75% of the total fee will be due and the doula will provide the usual postpartum support.

Doula

Date

Birthing Mother

Date

Partner

Date

Back up will be provided by _____ on the following dates: _____

Backup can be reached at _____

For Doulas use:
 Deposit received on _____
 Copy of contract returned to couple _____
 Check for balance received on _____
 Prenatal visit scheduled for _____ completed
 Date of birth _____