



Qualifications of a Licensed Midwife

Law requires the secretary of health, with the advice of the Midwifery Advisory Committee, to develop a form to be used by a midwife to inform the patient of the qualifications of a licensed midwife. (18.50.105 RCW)

“Midwife” means a midwife licensed under 18.50 RCW.

Qualifications of a licensed midwife include:

- ✓ Completion of at least three academic years consisting of both didactic and clinical instruction that meets the educational standards of the school and chapter 18.50 RCW.
- ✓ Students must care for a minimum of 50 women in each of the prenatal, intrapartum (labor), and early postpartum periods.
- ✓ To qualify for licensure a candidate must observe an additional 50 women in the intrapartum (labor) period.
- ✓ Successfully pass the national and state midwifery licensure examinations.

Other Important Information

A midwife licensed in Washington State specializes in the care of low risk childbearing women and their newborn babies.

Licensed midwives are covered by almost all medical insurance companies in Washington State.

A licensed midwife may practice independently or in a group of other midwives, physicians, or healthcare providers.

Licensed midwives can deliver babies in hospitals, birth centers, or homes.

To check the credential status of any healthcare provider licensed in Washington, including midwives, visit the Department of Health webpage at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> then find the “Look up a healthcare provider license” link under the “How do I” list of topics.