

Colorado Midwives Registration

Registration News 2001

*State of Colorado
Department of Regulatory Agencies
Bill Owens, Governor
M. Michael Cooke, Executive Director
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As there was no newsletter with the 2000 renewal form, we have quite a bit of catching up to do. You may have noticed that Bruce Douglas is no longer Director of Registrations; he retired August 31 and was succeeded by Rosemary McCool, who was formerly Program Administrator of the Complaints and Investigations Section.

Linda Fleming also will be transferring to a new position within the Department on October 15. She has accepted the Business Process Specialist position in the Office of the Executive Director. In this role she will continue to work with the Business Process Re-engineering Project for the Department of Regulatory Agencies. No decision has been made regarding a successor.

Practice Act changes

The Midwives Practice Act went into sunset this year and there were many changes proposed in the report that was prepared for the legislature by the Office of Policy and Research. Some of you were contacted by that office for your views on the practice of midwifery in Colorado. However, the legislature agreed with only a few of the proposed changes. A copy of the new law will be mailed to all of you when it has been finalized by the Revisor of Statutes.

In the meantime, the changes are summarized as follows:

It is still prohibited for nurses and doctors to hold a midwifery license and vice versa, but now it will be legal for midwives to hold another type of healthcare provider license concurrently with their midwifery registrations.

To close a loophole in the law, the definition of "direct-entry midwife" is no longer someone who practices this profession for compensation. Without this correction, it has been possible for individuals who offered their services for free to circumvent the registration requirement. Now it is illegal to practice midwifery without a registration, whether or not a fee is charged.

Beginning July 1, 2003, the education requirements will undergo a change. Many of the changes will be spelled out in upcoming rules; as yet no rules hearing has been scheduled. You will all receive copies of the new rules when they are completed, however. Watch our website for the Rules Hearing notice.

Please note that all applicants for midwifery registration who become registered before July 1, 2003, will need to meet the current standards.

Another new section of the Midwifery Practice Act attempts to prevent patient injury by means of possible impairments of the midwife or caused by practicing beyond the scope. This section reads: "A direct-entry midwife is prohibited from practicing beyond the scope of education and training or from practicing with a mental or physical impairment sufficient to render the registrant unable to perform midwifery services with reasonable skill and with safety to the patient." This language parallels that in other health care provider practice acts.

Any final decision of the Director of Registrations regarding discipline shall be subject to review by the Court of Appeals. This again is to parallel other professional practice acts and would result in a faster resolution of any appeals.

The next sunset of the Midwife Practice Act will not take place until July 1, 2011.

Midwife Exams

Five persons sat for the NARM direct-entry midwife examination on August 15, 1999, and four passed. Last February no one tested in Colorado. On February 16, 2000, two candidates tested and both passed. On August 16, 2000, four applicants tested and all passed.

The 2002 exams are scheduled for February 20 and August 21, 2002.

Complaints

During fiscal 2001 (July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001) there were three new complaints filed. Also in that time period, eight complaints were closed. Thus far in fiscal 2002, four new complaints have been filed and two cases have been dismissed.

Renewal Miscellaneous

Thirty-four midwives renewed their registrations last November. The results of the 2000 statistical survey they submitted are enclosed.

Roster

A roster of active midwives is included with this mailing. There are currently 40 active midwives registered. Please check your name and address to see that it is correct! If not, please be sure to let us know if any of this information has changed. If we don't show a phone number for you, that means we don't have one and as a result can't pass it along to anyone looking for a midwife in your area. Please help us help you by making sure we have a correct address and phone number for you.