

The Life of a Midwife

I believe God called me into midwifery. I view it as a ministry to families. Birth is a life-changing experience, not a medical emergency. It is a pleasure for me to work with families who want to be responsible for their own health care decisions. I have made a commitment to family led birthing and I'd like to share with you what that commitment entails on my part.



The life of a midwife is a challenging and rewarding one. Being on call 24 hours a day adds a very real thread of tension to our lives. We must always have one or two back up plans every time we leave our home. At any time the phone can interrupt our supper, bathing, or our sleep. We miss our children's birthdays, performances and other family related events to attend the women we serve. Our husbands must be willing to come home whenever needed.

This is the midwife's part of the equation.

In order for the midwife to fulfill her part, the family must fulfill theirs.

I rely on the families I serve to make careful and educated decisions about their pregnancy and birth. You will need to do some reading and discussing together. I can give you resources and choices. Your part is to make those choices carefully, taking responsibility for the outcome.

Please be considerate about missing and changing appointments. Payment is an **important** factor. I rely on expected payments for my income, just as much as you expect your paycheck on time. I cannot pay for medical supplies, auto repairs, cell phone bills, assistant fees, heat for my office, continuing education, and so on if I am not paid. Most of your fee goes toward overhead and taxes. I don't make that much money!

You have chosen midwifery care and homebirth for many reasons. Personalized care, time to discuss your needs, attention paid to your natural cycles, desire for a loving natural birth that is not directed by technology or the clock. You have asked me to honor your need to birth in the way you feel is right for your family. I am willing to meet that request with all the skills I have, which are outlined in my informed consent document. If this philosophy is comfortable to you then we will work well together. I look forward to getting to know you.

