

State Affiliates

The purpose of State Affiliates is to allow for locally-based efforts that support the ACNM mission, including educational programs and efforts to achieve legislation and regulation that is favorable to midwifery practice. The development of State Affiliates will change the way ACNM members work together within states, between states, and between their state and ACNM. Each state, territory, or federal district will have a geographically defined organization, which will be the official affiliate organization to the ACNM.

As with ACNM National, the primary goals of the ACNM State Affiliates are to:

1. Promote the health and well-being of women and families in the state by furthering the profession of midwifery.
2. Provide a mechanism of support for ACNM members.
3. Foster stronger ACNM member communities.
4. Increase the effectiveness of ACNM's advocacy for improved access to high-quality midwifery care for women and their families through state legislative, regulatory, and health policy activities.

The basic steps to becoming a State Affiliate are:

1. Determine your current status. Chapters should locate and review existing governance documents. These could include: incorporation status, articles of incorporation, bylaw/SROPs, tax ID number, tax status and insurance documentation.
2. Although affiliates have the option of whether or not to become incorporated, ACNM strongly recommends that affiliates incorporate. An attorney is not needed for incorporation. The following link provides forms and easy to follow instruction for incorporating:
http://midwife.org/aff_devsup.cfm?CFID=4355228&CFTOKEN=74871772 (You will need your member number to log in.)
3. Make sure you have a tax ID, also known as the Employer Identification Number (EIN). Tax IDs protect you because the IRS could mistake an ACNM Affiliate as being responsible for the tax reporting of another entity. Tax IDs are free and easy to obtain at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fss4.pdf>
4. Obtain 501 (c) (6) tax status. This is in addition to applying for a tax ID. If you do not have 501 (c) (6) tax status, consider signing up for the ACNM group tax exemption (status pending). Sign-up is free. Having 501(c)(6) tax status enables your Affiliate to be exempt from income tax on ACNM-related proceeds (e.g., program revenue, meeting revenue) and permits significant spending for lobbying. Dues, donations and other monies received by the affiliate are not deductible as charitable contributions, but may be deductible on your members' tax returns as business expenses.

5. ACNM Affiliates will be required to purchase general liability insurance. Directors and officers insurance is optional, but recommended. ACNM's insurance representative is available to answer questions and provide premium quotes for groups. The agent's name is Kristen Cork at Kerxton Insurance Agency, Inc. She can be reached at kcork@kerxton.com or 703-352-0030. It is recommended that Affiliates also get insurance quotes from local companies to assure the most cost effective policies. Showing that you are an ACNM-approved Affiliate will help you obtain insurance from the ACNM carrier.
6. Submit your Affiliate's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws – after making sure they are consistent with ACNM's – with a request for official recognition as an ACNM Affiliate.

Assistance with becoming a State Affiliate is available in the governance documents provided online at http://midwife.org/aff_devsup.cfm?CFID=4355228&CFTOKEN=74871772.

July 2009

The ACNM "QuickInfo" series was developed by the Department of Professional Practice & Health Policy to respond to common inquiries by summarizing ACNM resources regarding a particular topic, as well as listing selected literature and a variety of other resources. Your feedback is welcomed; contact our department at (240) 485-1844 or pphp@acnm.org. (Listing of other services and products does not imply endorsement by ACNM.)