

State Policy

Introduction

In the United States, state governments play a central role in determining the extent to which certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) can provide care to women and babies. State laws and regulations can establish midwives' scope of practice; set licensure requirements; determine their ability to get paid and obtain access to health facilities; delineate prescriptive authority; and define their relationship with physicians. For CNMs, regulation by the state has evolved from a haphazard patchwork of highly variable regulatory models into a fairly uniform set of rules and regulations from one state to the next.

State laws and regulations are also very important because they are instrumental in creating an environment in the state that is conducive to midwifery practice. Those states where CNMs can practice within their full scope of practice as an independent practitioner with full prescriptive authority and in a collaborative relationship with a physician are the most "CNM-friendly."

ACNM has a large volume of state policy resources designed to help members and others.

State Laws and Regulations Affecting CNMs/CMs

These summaries contain the current legal guidelines governing practice of midwifery in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. territories, and are available on the ACNM web site to members only at <http://www.midwife.org/today.cfm>. They summarize state laws relating to scope of practice, prescriptive authority, third party and Medicaid reimbursement, education requirements, regulatory oversight, standards for postpartum discharge, certification, and accreditation of birth centers. Quick reference tables give the reader a simple way to compare states on particular topics. Additionally, you will find contacts for state agencies that deal with midwifery, including agencies that regulate public health, Medicaid, maternal and child health, welfare/public assistance, state insurance, and vital statistics. There is also a link to the state legislature.

State Fact Sheets

These fact sheets contain such information as midwifery history, statistics, education, and practice and reimbursement issues for all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and New York City. These fact sheets are on the ACNM Web site at http://www.midwife.org/state_legislation.cfm.

ACNM Staff

The ACNM State Policy Analyst serves as the primary resource for state policy issues, legislation, and regulations. This includes monitoring state government trends and laws relating to midwifery and practice issues, and working with chapter chairs and state legislative contacts on state issues. For assistance you may [email](#) the State Policy Analyst or call at 240-485-1843.

References

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2. Sekscenski ES, Sansom S, Bazell C, Salmon ME, Mullan F. State practice environments and 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910-6374 240.485.1800 fax: 240.485.1818 www.midwife.org

the supply of physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and certified nurse-midwives. *N Engl J Med* 1994; 331:1266-1271.

3. Myers-Ciecko JA. Evolution and current status of direct-entry midwifery education, regulation, and practice in the United States, with examples from Washington State [see comments]. *J Nurse Midwifery* 1999; 44:384-393.

4. Reed A, Roberts JE. State regulation of midwives: issues and options. *J Midwifery Women's Health* 2000 Mar-Apr;45(2):130-49 2000; 45:130-149.

5. Hartley H. The influence of managed care on supply of certified nurse-midwives: an evaluation of the physician dominance thesis. *J Health Soc Behav* 1999; 40:87-101.

* The ACNM Resource Catalog is available from the ACNM Web site, www.midwife.org. You may also contact us at the phone number or e-mail address below and request that a Catalog be mailed to you.

The ACNM "*QuickInfo*" series was developed by the Department of Professional Services to respond to common inquiries, summarizing ACNM resources regarding a particular topic, as well as listing selected literature and a variety of other resources. Your feedback is welcomed; contact Professional Services at 240-485-1800 or info@acnm.org 8/8/2001

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