

## Midwifery Scope of Practice Comments February 27 through March 5

I am a doula in Yuma, Arizona and I recently had the privilege of witnessing my first out of hospital birth, a VBAC that took place in a hotel room. The mother chose to give birth outside of the hospital because she was unwilling to be subject to the procedures and routines that her care provider and our local hospital deem necessary for management of labor and birth. The experience taught me that while hospitals are undoubtedly necessary and invaluable for treating high risk or life and death situations, the typical hospital birth experience undermines and interferes with the natural hormonal and physiological processes that have evolved to safeguard the birth process for mothers and babies. My client was blessed to find an amazingly caring, open-minded midwife who agreed to support her birth remotely because there are no local midwives who attend home births. This midwife was able to continuously observe the third stage of labor and postpartum transition via Skype- she asked us questions, addressed our concerns, and used her skills and experience to talk us through moments when we needed guidance. I fully believe that my client's experience was safer and more positive thanks to this wonderful woman, and it is a travesty that others like her are limited and restricted from doing what they can to help and protect birthing women. Though many women will alter their birth plans when a midwife attended home birth is not an option, others will not be told how or where to birth and will stand with their convictions, even when it incurs a higher level of risk. I humbly beg you to be liberal with midwives' ability to care for and attend the births of mothers who refuse any and all recommended care protocols.

Fri, Mar 1,  
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