

PEER REVIEW GUIDELINES

The **Peer Review Process** is a routine retrospective educational review by professionals of similar training &/or experience. Peer Review is open to practicing midwives and their active students &/or apprentices. Peer Review provides an opportunity for cohesiveness within a community and can serve as a foundation when difficult situations arise. Committing to ongoing Peer Review provides a stable environment for solving problems and lending support to each other. Additionally, Peer Review adds validity to our professionalism and is required for all CPM's and Licensed Midwives in Idaho.

It is recommended that Peer Review be held quarterly. In cases of unusual hardship, it is suggested that meetings happen at least every six months and between meetings the midwives involved should make phone contact or meet via conference call to discuss any difficult cases.

Upon arrival, each midwife tells the facilitator the number of cases they have to review and how much time they estimate they will need to present them.

At the opening of the meeting, the midwife facilitating will review the basic guidelines for Peer Review:

1. All information presented at Peer Review is CONFIDENTIAL. (Sign a confidentiality statement?)
2. The intention of Peer Review is not punitive or critical but supportive, educational, and community based. Positive feedback is encouraged, concerns should be raised respectfully and with the assumption that feedback is welcome.
3. Cases involving consultation, transfer of care, transport to the hospital, instances where the midwife is outside practice guidelines or scope of practice (including the process of Informed Consent used), cases where the midwife wishes more input from the community, or any situation that would be of interest to the group should all be presented.
4. Discussion of a case will be limited depending on the size of the group and the number of cases.
5. While a midwife presents a case, everyone remains quiet. Questions are asked after the midwife has finished.
6. Recommendations are made individually &/or by consensus and the group offers support.

Each midwife states the following to the best of her ability:

1. Total number of clients currently in the midwife's care;
2. Number of upcoming due dates;
3. How many clients are postpartum;
4. Number of births attended since your last peer review;
5. Midwife then presents the case. After each case, questions may be asked and suggestions given.

When presenting a case, the following information should be available:

- G/P along with any significant medical or OB history or psychosocial concerns;
- Relevant lab work and test results;
- Significant information regarding pregnancy, birth and postpartum;
- Consultations with other providers;

Do to the fact that Peer Review for midwives is not currently protected in statute, it is vital that:

- NO client names be shared;
- NO charts be shared;
- NO notes be taken or archived other than the midwives Peer Review Sheet.

At the end of the Peer Review Session the midwives Peer Review Sheet will be signed & dated by the facilitating midwife. If desired by the group, a certificate of attendance can be provided to participants.

CONFIDENTIAL = 1) done or communicated in secret 2) entrusted with the confidence of another

CONFIDENCE = 1) trust or faith in a person or thing 2) assurance that a secret will be kept