

# Bellingham Birth Center

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## INFORMED CONSENT

I have chosen to give birth at Bellingham Birth Center (BBC). BBC is licensed by the Washington State Department of Health and accredited by the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers. I have had my questions answered about the available maternity care options in my area. I have received a packet of BBC paperwork which oriented me to BBC, and have been offered a tour of the facility. I understand that additional information about licensed midwifery and birth center birth can be obtained from the WA State Department of Health and the Midwives Association of Washington State (MAWS). For a complete list of indications for transfer of care and a definition of BBC's risk screening criteria, please see the MAWS document which can be found here: <http://www.washingtonmidwives.org/for-midwives/indications-consultation.html>

I understand that BBC is for women experiencing normal, complication-free pregnancies and births, and that if complications develop, my midwife will consult, refer or transfer as needed. I realize that the birth center provides medications for the control of hemorrhage, shock and seizure, as well as oxygen and ventilation equipment for newborn resuscitation. Additionally, BBC offers prophylactic eye ointment, K administration and metabolic screening for newborns, as well as rapid HIV screening as needed, and RhoGAM for Rh negative women. I understand that I can obtain more information about these options from my midwife or from the birth center. I also understand that pain medication, narcotics, epidural anesthesia, vacuum extraction, forceps, blood transfusions, cesarean sections, endotracheal intubation and IV medications for newborns are not available at the birth center, and that if I or my baby need any of these things, we would have to transport to Peace Health Saint Joseph Medical Center.

While pregnancy and birth are normal human functions, it has been explained to me and I understand that there are risks associated with labor and birth. Risks exist whether the birth is taking place in a hospital, in a birth center, or at home. I understand that, in rare cases, life-threatening emergencies can arise unpredictably and suddenly. In such rare cases, mother and/or baby may be at greater risk outside a hospital setting. I have made an informed choice regarding the place of birth for my child.

I    DO    DO NOT give permission for BBC to post pictures I share with them, including in the office, the waiting room, on the BBC website and/or Facebook page. I understand that my licensed midwife is responsible for my care and that BBC is just a facility and cannot be held responsible for the choices that my midwife or I make. The BBC facility fee is \$2700 and insurance companies reimburse between approximately \$900 and \$2400. BBC provides a discounted rate of \$1500 for families paying out of pocket if payment is made by 36 weeks gestation. I realize I am responsible for any unpaid portion of the BBC facility fee and in the event that my insurance does not reimburse BBC as expected, I agree to pay the balance of the amount owed. By my signature below, I acknowledge receipt of the Notice of Privacy Practices and the Client Bill of Rights, and my understanding of all of the above.

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Client Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Client Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Licensed Midwife Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date