

BELLINGHAM BIRTH CENTER, INC.

2430 CORNWALL AVENUE BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

(360) 752-2229 FAX: 752-2228

CLIENT BILL OF RIGHTS

The Washington Administrative Code (WAC 246-329-085), which regulates licensed birth centers in Washington State, requires that every client planning to give birth at a licensed birth center receive a copy of their bill of rights. This is to ensure that each client knows her rights and understands the policies and procedures of the birth center. As a client of Bellingham Birth Center, you have a right to the following:

1. A listing of the services provided by the birth center and a description of other pregnancy care services available in the area;
2. Be informed of the birth center's policies and procedures for admission and discharge;
3. Be informed of the birth center's definition of a low risk client, the benefits and risks of out-of-hospital birth, receipt of a written informed consent, prior to the onset of labor that shall include, but not be limited to, evidence of an explanation by your licensed midwife of the birth services offered, potential risks and benefits, and emergency transfer and transport procedures;
4. Be informed of what constitutes being ineligible for birth center services and the transfer policy and procedures of clients who, during the course of pregnancy or labor or recovery, are determined to be ineligible, including the birth center's plan for provisions of emergency and non-emergency care in the event of complications of the parent and newborn;
5. Be informed that unexpected neonatal emergencies requiring complex resuscitation are rare, but can occur. Be informed that the birth center staff are trained to provide initial steps of newborn resuscitation (such as suction of the upper airway) and provide bag-and-mask ventilation, using a laryngeal mask airway (LMA) if needed, and performing chest compressions until emergency medical service providers arrive to provide further resuscitation procedures if required;
6. Participate in decisions relating to the plan for management of care and all changes in that plan once established including consultation, referral, and transfer to other practitioners of other levels of care;
7. Be informed of the policy and procedures for consultation, referral, transfer of care and transport of a newborn or pregnant client to a hospital;
8. Be informed of prenatal screening under chapter 70.54 RCW and chapter WAC 246-680;
9. Be informed of newborn screening requirements (formerly known as the PKU test) under chapter 70.83 RCW and chapter WAC 246-650, including a provision of a copy of the parent information pamphlet "Newborn Screening Tests and Your Baby" which is available from the department's newborn screening program, your midwife and also in the birth center's waiting room;
10. Be informed that rapid HIV testing is available for all clients without a documented history of HIV testing during prenatal care;
11. Be informed of prophylactic treatment of the eyes of the newborn in accordance with WAC 246-100-206 (6)(b). For more information: WA State Department of Health (360) 236-3460;

12. Be informed that Vitamin K administration for the newborn is available;
13. Be informed that newborn hearing screening tests are recommended and are offered by local midwives and at St. Joseph Hospital;
14. A description of the process for submitting and addressing complaints: (800) 633-6828;
15. Submit complaints without retaliation and to have the complaint addressed by the birth center;
16. Be informed of the state complaint hotline: (800) 633-6828;
17. Be treated with courtesy, dignity, respect, privacy, and freedom from abuse and discrimination’
18. Refuse treatment or services;
19. Privacy of personal information and confidentiality of health care records;
20. Be cared for by properly trained personnel, contractors, students and volunteers and be informed of the qualifications of clinical staff, consultants and related services and institutions;
21. Be informed of all diagnostic procedures and reports, recommendations and treatments;
22. A fully itemized billing statement upon request, including the date of each service and the charge;
23. Be informed about advanced directives and the birth center’s responsibility to implement them;
24. Be informed of your rights with regards to participation in research or student education programs;
25. Be informed of the liability insurance coverage of the practitioners upon request; and,
26. Be informed of child passenger restraint systems (car seats) to be used when transporting children in motor vehicles, including information describing the risks of death or serious injury associated with the failure to use a child passenger restraint system. Resources include www.safekids.org and (800) 282-5587.