

**October 23, 2019**

### **Traditional Midwifery in Oregon**

Since 2015, The Oregon statutes have recognized a category of midwives called “Traditional Midwives.” Oregon law allows a person to practice direct entry midwifery as a traditional midwife without a license if that person complies with certain requirements.

**Question:** What are the requirements for being a traditional midwife?

**Answer:** A person can practice direct entry midwifery without a license as a traditional midwife if the person:

- (1) Does not use legend drugs and devices (a license is required to use legend drugs and devices in Oregon);
- (2) Does not advertise as a midwife; and
- (3) Provides a Board approved disclosure statement to every client.

**Question:** What is direct entry midwifery?

**Answer:** Oregon law defines “direct entry midwifery” as providing the following services for compensation:

- (1) Supervision of the conduct of labor and childbirth;
- (2) Providing advice to a parent as to the progress of childbirth;
- (3) Rendering prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care; and
- (4) Making newborn assessments.

**Question:** Has the Board of Direct Entry Midwifery prescribed the requirements for the traditional midwife disclosure form?

**Answer:** Yes, under OAR 332-025-0125 the Board has prescribed a specific [traditional midwife information disclosure form](#) that a traditional midwife must give to each client and have each client sign. A copy must be retained in the client’s record.

**Important Note:** Please note that the Board of Direct Entry Midwifery and the Health Licensing Office cannot provide individualized advice on how the law applies to a person or a person’s practice. The Oregon State Bar has information on how to hire a lawyer in Oregon at [www.osbar.org](http://www.osbar.org).