



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is aware of reports from sources such as the [Washington Post](#) and [NPR](#), among other outlets, that the US government is denying passports, detaining, and otherwise questioning the US citizenship of hundreds, if not thousands, of people who live near the US-Mexico border. The federal government contends the birth certificates they hold are documents that were filled out fraudulently, in some cases, by midwives.

As the leading professional organization for midwives in the United States, ACNM in no way condones the issuance of fraudulent documents. We value formal education, lifelong individual learning, and the development and application of research to guide ethical and competent midwifery practice. These beliefs and values provide the foundation for commitment to individual and collective leadership at the community, state, national and international level to improve the health of women and their families worldwide.

Our members, who are certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs), uphold the highest ethical standards in accordance with our [Code of Ethics](#). CNMs and CMs are highly skilled primary care providers who specialize in pregnancy, childbirth, and gynecologic and reproductive health services and who provide evidence-based, individualized care throughout the United States and globally. To obtain the CNM/CM professional designation, midwives complete rigorous graduate-level training at a midwifery education program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education and pass a national certification examination administered by the American Midwifery Certification Board. ACNM recognizes that designations of midwives exist who may practice with no advanced degree or official licensure.

The signing of birth certificates by midwives is regulated by each state and may vary within individual institutions. However, this function falls well within the [Scope of Practice](#) of CNMs/CMs. We do not know the designation or preparation of midwives who are alleged to have signed fraudulent birth certificates.

ACNM sympathizes with the plight of those affected, who were given the documents as infants and children long ago. Overwhelmingly, these individuals no longer have the requested supporting documentation, and they are in no way responsible for the legitimacy of their long-held status. We urge the Administration to end the detentions, deportations, and “denaturalization” processes for the individuals and families affected.