

POSITION STATEMENT

Qualifications for Expert Witness in Midwifery

An expert witness in midwifery reviews health care records and legal documents related to a negligence claim or licensing investigation and testifies under oath about the standard of care for midwifery practice. The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) suggests the following qualifications for an expert witness in midwifery:

- Graduation from an educational program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education,
- Current certification from the American Midwifery Certification Board,
- A minimum of 5 years of practice experience in the field of midwifery,
- Current state licensure to practice midwifery,
- Current practice experience in the specific area of midwifery relevant to the claim,
- Review and testimony based on evidence-based practice, and
- Use of ACNM's definition of midwifery practice,¹ Core Competencies for Midwifery Practice,² Standards for the Practice of Midwifery,³ and related documents.

REFERENCES

1. American College of Nurse-Midwives. Definition of midwifery and scope of practice of certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives. Published Dec. 2021, Accessed May 2024.
https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmldata/uploadfilename/000000000266/Definition%20Midwifery%20Scope%20of%20Practice_2021.pdf
2. American College of Nurse-Midwives. Core competencies for basic midwifery practice. Published March 2020, Accessed May 2024.
https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmldata/uploadfilename/0000000000050/ACNMCoreCompetenciesMar2020_final.pdf
3. American College of Nurse-Midwives. Standards for the practice of midwifery. Published 2022, Accessed May 2024.
https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmldata/uploadfilename/000000000051/2022_ps_standards-for-the-practice-of%20midwifery.pdf

Note. Midwifery as used throughout this document refers to the education and practice of certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) who have been certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board.

Source: Professional Liability Section

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