



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,
- 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. <https://bit.ly/10Si6YN>. Approved December 2011. Accessed February 19, 2019.
2. American College of Nurse-Midwives. Core competencies for basic midwifery practice. <https://bit.ly/2S3KcPJ>. Approved December 2012. Accessed February 19, 2019.
3. American College of Nurse-Midwives. Standards for the practice of midwifery. <https://bit.ly/2GRXF7x>. Approved September 24, 2011. Accessed February 19, 2019.

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, Inc. (AMCB).

Written by the Professional Liability Section & Approved by ACNM Board of Directors 2007.

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