

BIRTH DOULAS OF PITTSBURGH (LABOR SUPPORT) CONTRACT

Contract made between Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh and _____, the Client, due date of _____. Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh owns and operates a business to provide labor support services, and Client desires to contract with Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh to arrange for and supply the services of a Birth Doula.

OBLIGATIONS OF BIRTH DOULAS OF PITTSBURGH

Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh will have a Doula on call for you twenty-four hours a day during your "birth month" (two weeks before and two weeks after your due date). All Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh Doulas are DONA-Certified (or are certification eligible). Every effort will be made to provide the services described here.

The relationship between Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh and the Doula is one of a contractor/independent contractor. Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh is involved in matching clients with Doulas, and the conduct and control of the work will lie solely with the Doula selected. Notwithstanding the contractor/independent contractor relationship between Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh and the Doulas, Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh has established high standards of qualification and performance to which Doulas are required to adhere. Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh carefully screens and trains prospective Doulas and frequently and periodically ensures that Doulas are in compliance with all qualification and performance standards.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

A Doula accompanies women in labor to provide non-medical physical and emotional support. She will provide support and reassurance, information, and suggestions for comfort and pain control, such as relaxation, visualization, massage, positioning, breathing patterns, and many other techniques. She will suggest ways to help you work positively with your contractions. She strives to maintain a calm and peaceful birth environment. The role of a Doula is not to make decisions, but to help you know your options. A Doula works cooperatively within the birth team to help you follow your birth plan as closely as possible.

You, as clients, should notify the Doula when labor has begun, even if her services are not yet needed. She can answer questions and make suggestions over the telephone to help with comfort and to keep your spirits up. Your Doula needs as much advance knowledge as possible to make arrangements to attend your birth. It usually takes one hour for the Doula to arrive at the hospital or birth center (possibly more if the hospital is located a significant distance away, if there is inclement weather, rush hour, etc.). Any problems in reaching your Doula should be directed to Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh immediately. Your Doula will remain with you throughout the entire labor and birth. After the birth, the Doula usually remains with you for the first hour or so, or until you are comfortable and your family is ready for quiet time together. She can help with initial breastfeeding, if desired. Your Doula will take photographs of your labor, birth and recovery, if desired.

Doulas provide non-medical care. They perform no medical procedures, such as blood pressure checks, fetal heart checks, exams, etc.

AFTER THE BIRTH

Doulas are available to provide support, guidance and information on feeding, newborn and mother care by telephone from the time of the birth until the time of the postpartum visit. The postpartum visit takes place at a mutually convenient time, generally between two and four weeks after the birth. The purpose of the visit is to review the birth, visit with you and the baby and to answer any questions you may have. Client agrees that upon completion of your postpartum visit with your Doula, Client will complete and submit a completed Evaluation of Labor, located on our website. **Please initial** _____.

FEES

Fees for the services described here (prenatal meeting, keeping a Doula on call, continuous labor and birth support, telephone support, postpartum visit, and a copy of any pictures taken) is as follows:

- \$750.00 for a doula that has attended up to 30 births
- \$950.00 for a doula that has attended 31 or more births

The fees are to be paid as follows:

For the \$750.00 birth - \$125.00 non-refundable fee due at prenatal visit to your doula; \$150.00 non-refundable fee as a retainer fee, due when this contract is signed to Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh; and \$475.00 due by 36 weeks gestation due to your doula.

For the \$950.00 birth - \$150.00 non-refundable fee due at prenatal visit to your doula; \$175.00 non-refundable fee as a retainer fee, due when this contract is signed to Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh; \$625.00 due by 36 weeks gestation due to your doula.

There may be an additional charge for the Doula's hospital parking. A valid receipt for the exact amount will be provided with the final bill. If the Doula fails to attend the birth due to her error, all monies paid shall be refunded.

The fee covers labor support for the entire labor and birth, regardless of length. In the case of a very rapid labor, (where the Doula has met her obligations and arrives at the hospital within approximately one hour of notification) or failure of the client to call, the full fee will be charged.

In the event that Client is unable to reach their assigned Doula, Client is to contact the Director of Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh at 412-880-2282 or 978-500-5067. There is no additional charge for long labors. False alarms (where doula is called to the hospital or birthing center and the Client is subsequently sent home) are charged an additional \$35.00 fee.

I / We, as clients, have read this contract and agree to its terms and conditions. Either party may cancel this contract at any time prior to 36 weeks gestation by providing written notice to both the Birth Doula and Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh. Contracts signed after 36 weeks gestation waive the right to cancel.

| | |
|--------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| Client | Date |
| | |
| _____ | _____ |
| Doula | Date |

The undersigned hereby authorizes the doula to take photographs of our labor, birth and newborn baby, which she will make available to us at the postpartum visit.

| | |
|--------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| Client | Date |

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED CONTRACT AND DEPOSIT TO: Birth Doulas of Pittsburgh, Attn: Bethany Brown, 6752 McPherson Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15208

-or-

A signed PDF may be emailed to bethany@birthdoulasofpittsburgh.com Deposits may be paid on our website in the Client Portal.