

I have strong Christian religious beliefs, but also support those who choose other religions or no religion

I believe homosexuality goes against nature, but treat all people with respect

I value personal choice

I value honesty

I support young and old parents

I support those having their first child and those who have many children

I support those who are considered "too big" to have a natural birth

I support those who stand up for their rights and freedoms

I do not support elective c-sections

1) How does your values list influence who you will agree to serve as a midwife?

I feel like some of my values open my services up to some people who have been excluded from natural childbirth and midwifery care in the past.

I know several people who have been told that they are too big to give birth naturally or that they can't have a water birth because of their size. This hits really close to home for me because I am a very large person and have been discriminated against because of my size. I hope that I can offer all the same services to my larger clients as my smaller ones are offered.

I know there are people who have been told that they are at high risk just because of their age, when they are very healthy otherwise. I understand that there "could" be risks associated with older or younger age but age alone should not be a risk factor. As midwives we are trained to serve the healthy low risk clients but also be looking for anything abnormal. I plan to not write someone off just because of their age.

Sometimes people who have many children are treated differently than those with few children. At the hospital they are often chastened or ridiculed for having large families. Some have even been pressured to accept birth control, tubal ligation, or a hysterectomy. This treatment is unethical and uncalled for. I will be happy to welcome these families into my practice.

Some of my values also show my biases. Although I treat everyone with respect, and I have friends who have other sexual orientations from my own, I know that I may not feel completely comfortable being in an intimate space with a couple or family that identifies differently than I do. In order to show them the respect they deserve I feel that I would need to inform them of my bias and help them find a midwife that could serve them better. If they know my bias and still want me as their midwife I would have to work

more on myself to be able to serve them appropriately. This is something I am still working on.

The last topic I want to write about is elective cesarean sections. I understand that sometimes surgery is necessary, and I have no issue with that. I feel like those who choose a cesarean but they don't understand the true risks involved are putting themselves and their baby in harm. I cannot support that. I know that there are certain circumstances that someone may choose an elective cesarean because of trauma. Although I don't believe that will help them heal, I can understand why that may be a choice someone makes.

Even though I don't agree with all the choices other people make, I highly value the idea of personal choice. I hope that as I continue to grow as a person and as a midwife I can more fully accept and support others' choices.