

**This is a sample contract that you can copy and paste into a doc to edit to meet your needs.**

# Certified Doula Services Contract

## \*SAMPLE\*

*This document is to serve as a sample, please edit and re-word as necessary. Remove these sentences and the word sample from the title.*

We, the undersigned, state that we have discussed and reviewed our wishes with our Certified Doula, <Doula's Name>. We understand that planning for this baby's birth is an important process and responsibility for us as parents, but does not guarantee how the birth will proceed or what the outcome will be; it may not go as we imagine.

### **General definition of a doula**

We understand that:

- A doula accompanies a person in labor to help ensure a satisfying birth experience.
- A doula works for us, not our care provider or hospital.
- A doula does not perform clinical tasks such as blood pressure or fetal heart rate monitoring, vaginal/cervical exams, or temperature checks. They do provide physical, emotional and informational support.
- A doula does not speak to the staff instead of us regarding matters where decisions are being made. A doula will discuss our concerns with us, suggest options, and facilitate discussion but we will speak on our own behalf to the clinical staff.

### **General information about our doula**

We understand that <Doula's Name>:

- Is a trained labor support specialist. They are a Certified Doula through <Organization Name>.
- Draws on their knowledge and experience to provide emotional support, physical comfort and facilitate communication with the medical staff to make sure we have the information we need to make informed decisions during labor.

- Can provide reassurance and perspective to us, make suggestions to help labor progress, and help with relaxation, massage, positioning and other techniques for comfort.
- Is independent and self-employed.

## Obligations of our doula

We understand that:

· <Doula's Name> will be on call for us 24 hours a day beginning two (2) weeks before our due date of \_\_\_\_\_ and ending two (2) weeks after our due date or with the birth of our child, whichever comes first. This means that <Doula's Name> will be available to reach at all times and they will be available to meet with us within one hour of when we ask them to join us in labor, unless negotiated otherwise.

Of course, <Doula's Name> will provide doula services for us beyond this 4-week window of time, but they may have other commitments that take them out of town or further away. Known times <Doula's Name> will be unavailable during our 4-week window are: \_\_\_\_\_

· Unforeseen circumstances may prevent <Doula's Name> from attending our birth. They will have a back-up doula available to us, whom we may also meet.

<Doula's Name> will communicate with the back-up doula as to our care and progress, yet they must waive all responsibility of the back-up doula's services.

## Services provided by our doula

We understand that <Doula's Name>:

- Will meet with us twice before the birth to discuss our plans.
- Will answer questions and make suggestions over the phone or on email any time support is needed.
- Will provide early labor support as requested.
- Will remain with us once active labor has begun until one to two hours after the baby

is born.

- Will utilize non-medical support and comfort techniques for labor and birth.
- Will help us gather information for us to make informed decisions before, during, and after birth.
- Will strive to maintain a calm and peaceful birth environment.
- Will photograph labor, birth and/or recovery if desired, as time and circumstances permit.
- Will meet with us two times postpartum to answer questions, help with feeding, give referrals, discuss the birth, and any other concerns we may have at that time.
- Will assist in providing information and giving emotional and practical parenting support by telephone or email on postpartum care, feeding and newborn care after the birth, as requested.

## Our obligations as clients

We understand that:

- We have hired <Doula's Name> as an independent professional for a fee of \$xxxx.
- We will complete an intake form and pay a non-refundable retaining fee of \$xxx upon hire.
- We will keep <Doula's Name> updated after visits with our care provider. ·

We will participate in childbirth preparation classes if this is our first baby.

- We will call <Doula's Name> when we think we may be in labor, even if we are not sure, so that they may make arrangements to attend our birth.
- We will allow <Doula's Name> approximately one hour to reach us when we are in labor.
- We understand that reserving <Doula's Name> as our doula reserves a spot on their client calendar for our due month. If we decide not to use <Doula's Name> as our doula more than four weeks prior to our due date, we will forfeit the retaining fee and no further compensation is due. If we decide not to use <Doula's Name> as our doula less

than four weeks prior to our due date, it is too late for them to fill our spot on their calendar, therefore the balance of the doula services is still due.

- We will pay the balance of the total fee at the first visit after the birth unless other arrangements are made in advance.

- In the event of a scheduled (non-emergency) labor induction or cesarean birth, we will take <Doula's Name> schedule into consideration.

## If our doula cannot make it to the birth

We understand that:

- <Doula's Name> will make every effort to provide the services described here.

- In the case of a rapid birth or medical emergency, it may be impossible for <Doula's Name> to provide these services.

- If <Doula's Name> or their back-up does not attend our birth due to an error on their part, there will be no charges beyond the retaining fee.

- If we fail to call <Doula's Name> for whatever reason, they will keep the retaining fee and the remaining balance will be due within two weeks of our birth.

Signed,

Client Date

Partner Date

<Doula's Name> Date