



The Arkansas Lay Midwife Act gives authority to the Board of Health (BOH) to oversee Licensed Lay Midwives (LLMs) in Arkansas. As part of this authority, the BOH sets the rules and regulations for LLMs. These rules require that LLMs follow specific protocols for risk assessment, consultation, referral, and transfer of care to ensure the safety of the mother and baby. The BOH has delegated the authority to enforce these Rules and Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Lay Midwifery in Arkansas to the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).

LLMs are trained experts in the care of **low-risk** pregnancy for women who want to give birth outside of a hospital. Low-risk means that a woman is healthy and should have a normal birth of a healthy baby with no problems. Some women have health issues that give them a greater chance of problems for the mother or baby. The LLM's training may not prepare her/him to handle these health issues. ***The health issue may call for testing or treatment that the LLM cannot give.*** Careful thought and discussion about the safety of an out-of-hospital birth may be needed. A team of health care providers may be better able to handle some health issues. This team may involve LLMs, obstetricians, pediatricians, Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), specialists, family doctors, and others.

The mother and her health practitioners should talk about her health issues. Together they can decide on the best plan for her care and for the birth of a healthy baby. Talking about the risks is important and required by the Rules and Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Lay Midwifery in Arkansas, and, as stated by NARM (North American Registry of Midwives) requires that:

If a midwife supports a client's choices that are outside her Plan of Care, she must be prepared to give evidence of informed consent. The midwife must also be able to document the process that led to the decision and show that the client was fully informed of the potential risk and benefits of proceeding with the new care plan. It is the responsibility of the midwife to provide evidence-based information, clinical expertise, and when appropriate, consultation or referral to other providers to aid the client in the decision making process.

Both the mother and the LLM must sign this form. Signing the form shows that the LLM and the mother have discussed the risks to both mother and baby of refusing the required test, procedure, treatment, medication, or referral. That discussion must include reviewing material from an ADH-approved source for each requirement being refused by the client. The LLM and the mother must decide on a plan of care for the health issue and that plan must be written on the form.

LLM INFORMATION	
Name:	Arkansas License Number:
CPM #	CPM Expiration Date:
MBC #	
Telephone Number:	Email Address:
CLIENT INFORMATION	
Name:	Date of Birth:
Address:	
Telephone Number:	CLIENT FILE #

The client must initial each of the following statements:

_____ I have been told by my LLM that my baby or I should have the following test, procedure, treatment, medication, or referral required by the Rules and Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Lay Midwifery in Arkansas:

_____ I have been told of the following risks and benefits of the test, procedure, treatment, medication, or referral:
