

# *Birth Doula*

## *Precious Moment Doula Service Agreement*

As a birth doula, I provide emotional and physical support to a birthing person during their labor and delivery. I also facilitate communication with the staff to ensure that you have the information you need to make informed decisions regarding your baby's birth. I can provide reassurance and perspective to you and your partner, make suggestions for labor progress, and help with relaxation, massage, positioning and other techniques for your comfort. I work as a solo birth and birth bereavement doula who works for YOU, not your caregiver or place of birth.

### BEFORE LABOR

I will meet with you for an initial consult before labor to become acquainted with you; explore and discuss your priorities and any fears or concerns; discuss your birth preferences; and plan how we might best work together.

I will also inform you of times when I am not available for labor support due to unforeseen illness or family emergency. To cover those times, I will arrange for a qualified back-up doula, to be on call for you. In this case their contact information will be provided to you.

Together, we will decide on up to two prenatal meeting days and we will remain in touch by telephone, text and/or e-mail communication.

### DURING LABOR

I prefer that you call me when you think you are in labor, even if you do not yet need doula support. This gives me time to clear my calendar for the next 24 hours. I can answer questions and make suggestions over the phone, and we can decide if I should come to you then or wait for further labor progress. I need approximately \_\_\_\_\_ minutes / hours to get to you from the time you ask us to join you unless it is rush hour in which \_\_\_\_\_ hours are needed. We will also decide where to meet (home, birthing center or hospital). Except for extraordinary circumstances, I will remain with you throughout your labor, birth and immediate postpartum.

### AFTER THE BIRTH

I usually remain with you for one or two hours after the birth, or until you are settled into your postpartum room and your family is ready for quiet time together. I also help with initial breastfeeding. I am available to answer questions about the birth or your baby, and I will schedule a postpartum visit within two weeks of the birth to meet with you, your partner and the baby, review the birth, provide breastfeeding support and get feedback from you about my role and your experience.

### LIMITATION OF SERVICES

As a doula, I do not:

1. Perform clinical tasks, such as taking blood pressure, fetal heart checks or vaginal exams. I am there to provide only physical comfort and emotional support and facilitate communication between you and the staff.
2. Make decisions for you. I will help you get the information you need to make an informed decision. I will also remind you if there is a departure from your birth preferences.
3. Speak to the staff on your behalf. I will discuss your concerns with you and suggest options, as well as encourage you to voice your opinions, questions and concerns to the staff.

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### BIRTH PLANS & CHANGES

- As a doula, I can help you prepare for your birth, but I cannot guarantee that your birth will go as planned.
- If **you plan a vaginal delivery and a cesarean is performed AFTER the onset of labor**, I will continue to provide support during the cesarean surgery (as allowed by hospital and/or doctor policies) as well as immediately after to help with your comfort and breastfeeding. I will also follow-up with you after the birth, as I do with all of my clients. In this scenario, the full fee applies, and no refund will be given.
- If **you and your doctor decide that a planned cesarean is necessary** (that is, a cesarean done before your due date and/or before the onset of labor), I will provide support during the cesarean (as allowed by hospital and/or doctor policies) and immediately after, as well as assistance settling in in your postpartum room, initial assistance breastfeeding. One additional 3-hour postpartum visit to assist with newborn care, baby laundry, mommy management for no added fee. In this scenario, the full fee applies, and no refund will be given.

### BACKUP DOULA

I will have a backup doula chosen in the event I have a family emergency or an illness.

The backup doula will be available during the same time frame as I am, 24 hours/day, 4 weeks before your expected due date until the birth. You will have the backup doula's contact information in the case I am unreachable or have become unavailable when you go into labor. I will make my best attempt to choose a backup that has similar training to me and is a good fit for your special circumstances and desires for your birth process.

### FAILURE TO PROVIDE SERVICES

- I will make every effort to provide the services described here in this agreement. If I fail to attend your birth due to my error, there will be no additional charge for the birth services and I will refund the balance fee, minus the initial non-refundable retainer (deposit).
- If I fail to attend your birth due to an error on your part (failing to call us, not calling us soon enough) no refund will be given, and the full fee applies.
- If a failure to attend your birth is due to a rapid / precipitous labor (baby is born less than the above stated time I need to reach you after you call me and ask me to come) I will provide one additional 3-hour postpartum visit within the first two weeks postpartum to assist with newborn care, baby laundry, mommy management, once released from hospital/birth center for no added fee. In this scenario, the full fee applies, and no refund will be given.

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- If inclement weather, traffic accident, or some other event out of our control prevents me and/or the backup doula to be present for your birth, we will join you as soon as we are able. During the "event", we will provide phone/text/ video support as much as possible and when the person and/or technology are available. I will also provide one additional 3-hour postpartum visit to assist with newborn care, baby laundry, mommy management for no added fee, the deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable. In most cases, there will be no refund more than 25% of the balance payment. Paid fees are transferable to other services (such as placenta encapsulation) that would fall under a separate contract.
- Any other circumstances that are out of our control like a natural disaster, an Act of God, a dangerous situation or a public health emergency (outbreak, epidemic, pandemic, etc.) that results in our absence at your birth will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. The deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable. In most cases, there will be no refund more than 25% of the balance payment. Paid fees are transferable to other services (such as placenta encapsulation) that would fall under a separate contract.

### PREGNANCY LOSS

- In the event of a pregnancy loss in any trimester as a birth and birth bereavement doula my support is still offered. If loss occurs refund of retainer and any other fees are left to my discretion. The remainder of your payment fee will not be required or will be refunded if already paid.
- Support will still be given through the labor, birth, and postpartum during the first one to two hours, whether miscarrying at home or miscarriage / stillbirth in hospital.
- Resources will be provided such as assistance finding funeral home, mentoring / support through the grief, assistance finding grief counseling, assistance in capturing memories.

### TERMINATION OF SERVICES

- If you choose to terminate this contract, the deposit If you choose to terminate this contract, the deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable. In most cases, there will be no refund more than 25% of the balance payment. Paid fees are transferable to other services (such as placenta encapsulation) that would fall under a separate contract.
- To terminate the contract before the birth, you agree to put the notice in writing and send it to [dustyrose2420@gmail.com](mailto:dustyrose2420@gmail.com).
- Precious Moment Doula reserves the right to terminate the contract and demand full contract payment if a safe environment is not maintained and corrections are not made immediately.
- If an agreement on termination cannot be achieved, you agree to settle the contract matter using mediation and pay the fees associated with mediation support. In the event that mediation fails, Precious Moment Doula reserves the right to pursue the matter through the U.S. legal system.

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### SERVICE DETAILS

For the services described Precious Moment Doula is herein, to be paid as follows:

\$ 250.00 as a deposit/retainer fee, due when you select Precious Moment Doula for your doula support and sign this contract.

\$ 550.00 due before the start of your 36th week of current pregnancy. Failure to pay could result in me not attending your birth.

\$\_\_\_\_\_travel fee due after birth and postpartum visit. This fee is only applicable when located over 70 miles away from Precious Moment Doula who is located in Screven, GA

\$\_\_\_\_\_Parking fee if needed for the hospital / birth will be due after birth and postpartum visit; receipt will be provided to client in this event.

\$\_\_\_\_\_Total Due

I have read this contract describing Sarah Pierce and Precious Moment Doula services and agree to enter a client-doula relationship for the pregnancy and birth with an expected due date of \_\_\_\_\_(EDD). I Hereby Give Precious Moment Doula Permission to enter my birth space immediately upon arrival and support me in the ways listed above. I agree to pay all fees listed above to Sarah Pierce, Precious Moment Doula.

Client Name\_\_\_\_\_Client Signature/date\_\_\_\_\_

Partner Name\_\_\_\_\_Partner Signature/date\_\_\_\_\_

Doula Name\_\_\_\_\_Doula Signature/date\_\_\_\_\_