

To whom it may concern,

The current situation by which independent midwives are being processed if there has been a complaint against them is totally unacceptable, unfair, unjust and unethical. No conditions should be placed on any midwife before an investigation has taken place.

I have grave concerns that at any time my midwife could find her registration under restriction and this would exclude her from continuing to be my main care provider. This will force me into the hospital system, which puts more pressure on an overloaded system especially as I am not sick – just pregnant. All you do by restricting an independent midwife's registration is send everyone underground. Women will choose to free-birth or unqualified 'midwives' will take advantage of the situation. In effect, you create unsafe conditions for mothers and babies by taking their choice away. What kind of a democracy is this if our choices are forced?

My midwife is more knowledgeable, experienced, trustworthy and professional than any regular hospital midwives I have met. She respects my decision to give birth at home, has supported me with information for and against this decision and has followed a thorough checkup protocol at each of our monthly visits. I did a lot of reading, research and speaking with women who have given birth in a variety of settings (including full intervention in hospital) before I came to my decision. Part of my midwife's professionalism and ethical standing is that she will recommend I transfer to hospital should anything change before or during the birth of my child – this is responsible patient care. I don't understand why she would have a complaint made against her and have her registration restricted for such an important decision that is for the health and safety of my baby and me.

What makes this a crime? Homebirth is a safer and healthier option for a healthy woman in a healthy pregnancy. The women that transfer to hospital are the few that have problems – not the majority. And in each case the transfer was initiated by a responsible caring non-judgemental midwife. Why is nobody reviewing the staff of hospitals for the disdainful treatment of home-birthing mothers and their midwives who transfer to hospitals? Are they not meant to treat every person with the best care possible without judgement? It's known by another name in the outside world. It's called bullying and nobody likes it – especially when the government is supporting it for NO good reason.

I request that an urgent review of this process takes place immediately and that some balance be restored. Midwifery and homebirth is not a crime.

Yours faithfully

Diana Condylas