

To whom it may concern,

I have had the same midwife for four pregnancies and three births (one miscarriage at 8 weeks). I choose to birth at home and have the support and care of a registered midwife, experienced in supporting homebirth.

It is my understanding that with the current process, if she and I chose to transfer to hospital for medical assistance during the course of my pregnancy or birth, that hospital staff could complain about her practice. If a complaint was made, it is my understanding that her practice would be restricted with "interim conditions", meaning that she would have to practice only in a hospital and under supervision. 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 or to choose to free birth.

I request that an urgent review of this process takes place immediately and that some balance be resorted.

Women must be supported in their birth choice.

Midwives must be treated as the professional, experienced, responsible practitioners that they are.

Sincerely

Kirsten Adams