

Tree of Life Midwifery Care
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Responsibilities of Clients for Having a Homebirth

- The mother maintains good nutrition and is not anemic. She will follow the instructions agreed upon at her meeting with her midwife.
- You will be available for prenatal appointments at the time agreed on by both the midwife and the client.
- The financial commitment will be met as agreed.
- If expecting a first child, the parents will attend a course of childbirth classes.
- The mother prepares herself as well as possible for childbirth without pain medication.
- Family members are supportive of one another. The father, in particular, needs to be supportive of the mother. Don't invite family, friends, etc. who you know are not supportive of your choice to birth at home. These people can have a negative effect on the laboring mother and will be asked to leave if the midwife feels this is necessary.
- The parents make provisions for the care and supervision of other children during labor and birth. They also arrange home assistance for the first week after the birth.
- The mother agrees to breastfeed for a minimum of one week after the birth in order to help the uterus contract and avoid seriously heavy bleeding.
- The couple prepares a comfortable, clean uncluttered and warm environment for the birth.
- The mother arranges for her own backup physician (or one recommended by the midwife) if she wishes to know her doctor in case of transport. If she chooses not to do this, she understands that she will be transported to a local hospital where she will be cared for by the doctors on call.
- The parents will arrange for a doctor to provide follow-up for the baby.
- The parents will discuss the following list of complications with their birth assistants and/or childbirth educators. They will seek clarification of these and other questions they may have if they do not understand.

| COMPLICATIONS THAT OCCUR DURING PREGNANCY: | LABOR COMPLICATIONS (MOTHER): | LABOR COMPLICATIONS (BABY): |
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| Diabetes | Placenta Abruption | Fetal distress |
| Toxemia (pre-eclampsia) | Hemorrhage | Cord prolapse |
| Multiple gestation | Prolonged rupture of membranes | Meconium in amniotic fluid |
| Placenta Previa | Cephalopelvic disproportion | Asphyxia following delivery |
| Polyhydramnios | Maternal exhaustion and/or dehydration | Shoulder dystocia |
| Breech or transverse lie | Retained placenta or placental fragments | Stillborn |