



A comparison of Licensed Midwives and Certified Nurse Midwives

Becoming a Midwife in Florida

In Florida, there are two ways to be licensed to practice as a midwife:

- (1) a Licensed Midwife
- (2) a Certified Nurse-Midwife

A Licensed Midwife (LM) is a direct-entry midwife; no education or license in any other profession is needed before enrolling in an education program. Licensed Midwives must complete a 3 year midwifery education program. Licensed Midwives deliver babies out of the hospital, in homes and birth centers. Other differences between the two kinds of midwives in Florida were explained at this information session.

A Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM) is educated in two disciplines, nursing and midwifery, and is licensed in Florida as an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP). After earning a Bachelors Degree (BSN) in nursing, s/he must complete an additional 2 years of education – a certificate or master’s degree program in advanced nursing – which includes midwifery training. Midwives who deliver in hospitals are CNMs.

Education

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ Direct-entry into midwifery program
- ❖ 3 years, 90 credits
- ❖ Associate in Science degree or certificate
- ❖ Midwifery only: includes necessary “nursing skills”

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ Need BSN degree and labor/delivery experience
- ❖ 6 years
- ❖ Master’s degree or BSN and certificate
- ❖ Nursing and Midwifery

Education programs in Florida

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery
- ❖ Florida School of Traditional Midwifery
- ❖ International School of Midwifery (not accredited)

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ University of Miami
- ❖ University of Florida
- ❖ C-NEP (and others) - At-a-distance programs visit www.acnm.org



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Core competencies

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ MANA – Midwives Alliance of North America (www.MANA.org)
- ❖ Florida Curriculum Framework for direct-entry midwives

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ ACNM – American College of Nurse Midwives (www.ACNM.org)
- ❖ Florida Curriculum Framework for midwifery programs in school of nursing

Program Authorization

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ Florida Department of Education
- ❖ Florida Department of Health, Council of Licensed Midwifery

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ Florida Department of Education
- ❖ Florida Department of Health, Board of Nursing

Program Accreditation

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ Midwifery Education Accreditation Council

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ American College of Nurse Midwives Division of Accreditation

State Licensing

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ By examination: NARM national certification examination
- ❖ Licensed by FL Department of Health (DOH) Council of Licensed Midwifery
- ❖ Licensed as a Licensed Midwife
- ❖ May practice in approximately 40 states in the USA
- ❖ Continuing education required every 2 years

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ By examination: ACNM national certification examination
- ❖ Licensed by FL Department of Health (DOH) Board of Nursing
- ❖ Licensed as an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner
- ❖ May practice in all 50 states in the USA
- ❖ Continuing education required every 2 years

Regulation

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ FL DOH Council of Licensed Midwifery
- ❖ F.S. 467, Midwifery Practice Act

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ FL DOH Board of Nursing
- ❖ F.S. 464, Nurse Practice



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Regulation of Practice

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ Defined by state law and rules
- ❖ The same for all Licensed Midwives in Florida

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ Defined by protocol between CNM & MD
- ❖ Each agreement is different depending upon the individual doctor and CNM

Scope of Practice

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ Normal low risk women
- ❖ Primarily out-of-hospital: homes and birth centers
- ❖ Some do well woman gynecology
- ❖ Can provide prenatal and postpartum care to women at risk in collaboration with a supervising physician or by protocol agreement with doctor/employer

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ Normal low risk women
- ❖ Primarily in the hospital, some in birth centers
- ❖ Most do well woman gynecology
- ❖ Can provide care to women at risk within the scope of the CNM's individual protocol agreement with her supervising physician

Relationships with physicians

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ Does not need a supervising physician to practice
- ❖ Uses different backup physicians depending on the closest hospital to the client's home and her insurance

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ Works under the supervision of a physician or group, most often as an employee
- ❖ Uses only the supervising physician for backup

Prescriptive medications

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ May administer any medications prescribed by a doctor or by a doctor's standing orders

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ May write prescriptions and administer medications under her affiliation with her supervising physician



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Insurance for services

Licensed Midwives and Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ State law requires that any insurance policy that provides maternity coverage must reimburse for the services of Licensed Midwives and Certified Nurse-Midwives
- ❖ Medicaid covers births by midwives in hospitals, homes and birth centers

Professional Liability Insurance Required To Practice

Licensed Midwives and Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ Required for Florida licensure
- ❖ Minimum coverage: \$100,000 / \$300,000
- ❖ Available through FMMJUA and private carriers

State Professional Organizations

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ Midwives Association of Florida
- ❖ Florida Alliance of Birth Centers – represents all birth center personnel

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ FL Chapter, American College of Nurse-Midwives
- ❖ Florida Nursing Association

National Professional Organizations

Licensed Midwives

- ❖ MANA: Midwives Alliance of North America (www.MANA.org)
- ❖ NARM: North American Registry of Midwives (www.NARM.org)
- ❖ MEAC: Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (www.meacschools.org)

Certified Nurse-Midwives

- ❖ ACNM: American College of Nurse-Midwives (www.ACNM.org)
- ❖ AMCB: American Midwifery Certification Board. (www.amcbmidwife.org)
- ❖ ACME: Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (www.midwife.org/acme.cfm)

For more information

Council of Licensed Midwifery
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-3256
Phone: 850-245-4587

Board of Nursing
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4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #CO-2
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