



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIVES

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South Dakota Board of Certified Professional Midwives Policy

Midwives attending women while miscarrying

South Dakota Codified Law and the Administrative Rules of South Dakota do not address transfer, consultation or referral for care if spontaneous abortion/miscarriage is diagnosed or suspected and if client has not felt fetal movement or reached the gestational age of 20+ weeks.

South Dakota Licensed Certified Professional Midwives are required to practice in a judicious and responsible way.

A midwife's supervision and assisting a client having a miscarriage is permissible because it is not prohibited when management is executed in a judicious and responsible way. Transport to a hospital would be recommended for the same signs and symptoms as a postpartum transport is regulated:

ARSD 20:86:03:04. Conditions for which a maternal transport to hospital shall be facilitated.

A Certified Professional Midwife shall facilitate the immediate transport of a client to a hospital for emergency care if the client has any of the following disorders, diagnosis, conditions or symptoms:

- (1) Infection during labor or immediately postpartum where maternal temperature is above 100.8 degrees Fahrenheit for two consecutive readings in one hour and one or more of the following are present:
 - (a) Foul smelling amniotic fluid;
 - (b) Shaking;
 - (c) Chills; or
 - (d) Elevated pulse;
- (12) Hemorrhage not responsive to treatment;
- (13) Unresolved maternal shock;

A miscarriage/spontaneous abortion does not meet the criteria of an abortion.

SDCL [34-23A-1](#). **Definition of terms.** Terms used in this chapter mean:

- (1) "**Abortion**," the intentional termination of the life of a human being in the uterus;

ARSD 34-25-32.8. Definitions related to stillbirth.

Terms used in §§ [34-25-32.8](#) to [34-25-32.16](#), inclusive, mean:

- (1) "Stillbirth," any intrauterine fetal death occurring in this state after a gestational age of not less than twenty completed weeks; and
- (2) "Certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth," a certificate issued to record the birth of a stillborn child.

ARSD 20:86:03:10. Professional standards. A person licensed by the board shall:

- (13) Not perform abortions.