

Connecticut General Statutes
Chapter 377
Midwifery

Secs. 20-75 to 20-86. Practice defined. Examination, registration and regulation of midwives. Sections 20-75 to 20-86, inclusive, are repealed.

Sec. 20-86a. Definitions. For the purposes of sections 20-86a to 20-86e, inclusive:

(1) "Nurse-midwifery" means the management of women's health care needs, focusing particularly on family planning and gynecological needs of women, pregnancy, childbirth, the postpartum period and the care of newborns, occurring within a health care team and in collaboration with qualified obstetrician-gynecologists.

(2) "Nurse-midwife" means a person who has demonstrated competence to practice nurse-midwifery through successful completion of an educational program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education and who is certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives, and is licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 20-86b. Scope of practice. Nurse-midwives shall practice within a health care system and have clinical relationships with obstetrician-gynecologists that provide for consultation, collaborative management or referral, as indicated by the health status of the patient. Nurse-midwifery care shall be consistent with the standards of care established by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education. Each nurse-midwife shall provide each patient with information regarding, or referral to, other providers and services upon request of the patient or when the care required by the patient is not within the midwife's scope of practice. Each nurse-midwife shall sign the birth certificate of each infant delivered by the nurse-midwife. If an infant is born alive and then dies within the twenty-four-hour period after birth, the nurse-midwife may make the actual determination and pronouncement of death provided: (1) The death is an anticipated death; (2) the nurse-midwife attests to such pronouncement on the certificate of death; and (3) the nurse-midwife or a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 certifies the certificate of death not later than twenty-four hours after such pronouncement. In a case of fetal death, as described in section 7-60, the nurse-midwife who delivered the fetus may make the actual determination of fetal death and certify the date of delivery and that the fetus was born dead.

Sec. 20-86c. Requirements for licensure. Fee. The Department of Public Health may issue a license to practice nurse-midwifery upon receipt of a fee of one hundred dollars, to an applicant who (1) is eligible for registered nurse licensure in this state, under sections 20-93 or 20-94; (2) holds and maintains current certification from the American Midwifery Certification Board; and (3) has completed thirty hours of education in pharmacology for nurse-midwifery. No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.

Sec. 20-86d. Advisory panel. The Commissioner of Public Health shall appoint a committee of three nurse-midwives, each of whom shall be licensed under this chapter and actively engaged in the practice of nurse-midwifery for not less than five years, and shall seek their advice and assistance in the administration of the program of regulation of nurse-midwives. No person who holds an office in the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Nurse-Midwives may be appointed to the committee.

Sec. 20-86e. Use of title. A nurse-midwife licensed under this chapter shall be known as a "licensed nurse-midwife" and no other person shall assume such title or use the

abbreviation L.N.M. or C.N.M. or any other words, letters or figures which indicate that the person using the same is a licensed nurse-midwife. No person shall practice nurse-midwifery as defined in section 20-86a unless he is licensed under this chapter.

Sec. 20-86f. Disciplinary action. The Department of Public Health may take any action set forth in section 19a-17 if a person issued a license pursuant to this chapter fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nurse-midwifery profession including, but not limited to, the following: Conviction of a felony; fraud or deceit in the practice of nurse-midwifery; negligent, incompetent or wrongful conduct in professional activities; emotional disorder or mental illness; physical illness including, but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process; abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals; wilful falsification of entries into any client record pertaining to nurse-midwifery. The commissioner may order a licensee to submit to a reasonable physical or mental examination if his physical or mental capacity to practice safely is the subject of an investigation. The commissioner may petition the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to enforce such order or any action taken pursuant to section 19a-17. Notice of any contemplated action under said section, the cause of the action and the date of a hearing on the action shall be given and an opportunity for hearing afforded in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

Sec. 20-86g. Midwifery license. Any person who held a current valid license as a midwife on June 30, 1983, shall be entitled to renew such license annually, upon payment of a fee of fifteen dollars, in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88.

Sec. 20-86h. Disciplinary action against licensed midwives. The Department of Public Health may take any action set forth in section 19a-17 if a person licensed as a midwife fails to conform to the accepted standards of the midwife profession. Conduct which fails to conform to the accepted standards of the midwife profession includes, but is not limited to, the following: Conviction of a felony; fraud or deceit in professional practice; illegal conduct; negligent, incompetent or wrongful conduct in professional activities; emotional disorder or mental illness; physical illness including, but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process; abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals; or wilful falsification of entries into any patient record.

Sec. 20-86i. Temporary practice of graduates of nurse-midwifery programs. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit graduates of nurse-midwifery programs approved by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education from practicing midwifery for a period not to exceed (1) ninety calendar days after the date of graduation, or (2) the date upon which the graduate is notified that he or she has failed the licensure examination, whichever is shorter, provided (A) such graduate nurses are working in a hospital or organization where adequate supervision, as determined by the Commissioner of Public Health, is provided, and (B) such hospital or other organization has verified that the graduate nurse has successfully completed a midwifery program approved by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education.