##

## Doula Service Letter Agreement

**Our Philosophy**

The birth of a child embodies the miracle of life and the abilities and strength of women, a natural and beautiful experience. As a doula, our hope is to give you and your partner the tools and support needed to experience a birth you are proud of, no matter the circumstances. Anyone experiencing birth deserves the best experience for them. Using our experience and evidenced based information we support you and your partner in birth so you are able to remain in as much control of the process as possible; allowing families to experience birth on their terms.

### Introduction: What is a Birth Doula?

Doulas draw on their training, knowledge and experience to provide the birthing family with emotional support, physical comfort and informational support. Doulas provide guidance in communication with care providers to make sure families have the information they need to make informed decisions during labor. Doulas also help provide reassurance and perspective, make suggestions for helping labor to progress and help with relaxation, massage, positioning and other techniques for comfort.

**Our Doula Partnership:**

We are dedicated doulas interested in serving families during this wonderful transformative time of life for decades to come. As partners working together to serve the same families, we are able to sustain our passion, commitment, and continuing education. In practice, We meet independently with our clients for prenatal visits, and engage in an on-call schedule for labor and birth.

### General Description of Services

### Before Labor

### You will meet with a doula for 1-2 prenatal visit(s) at your home prior to your labor. During these visits we will discuss your preferences regarding labor management and the various options available to you. We also want to better understand and know any methods you plan to use to manage labor, and how you and your partner foresee working together.

### During Labor

### We will provide phone support as needed until you are ready for the on-call doula to join you at your preferred location. Once your doula joins you, she will provide you continuous support during your labor and delivery.

### After the Birth:

### The doula remains for one to two hours after the birth, until the new family is comfortable and ready for quiet time together. We can also help with initial breastfeeding if that is desired. We are available by phone or email to answer questions about the birth or baby and if desired would love to get together to provide additional support where needed and help process the birth.

**Additional Services:**

In addition to Birth Doula Services, we will provide lactation support and birth photography when able and desired.

**Backup doulas:**

We will inform you in the event we may be unavailable for labor support (e.g. pre-existing plans to travel with family, etc.). There are also times when illnesses, family emergencies or my presence at another labor and birth may occur. To cover those times, we arrange one or more back-up doulas. You have the right to decline the recommended backup, but you also understand there will be no reduction in fees.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Initial from Client

### Failure to attend the birth:

### There may be occasions where we are unable to attend your birth due to forces outside our control, e.g. force majeure events, including, but not limited to, fire, flood, earthquake, storm, tornado, hurricane or other natural disaster, government sanction, labor dispute, strike, lockout or interruption or failure of electricity or telephone service (collectively “force majeure”). If the inability to attend your birth is our own fault or within our control, nothing else will be owed by you and you will be refunded all fees paid (less the non-refundable deposit of $250). If failure to attend your birth is not caused by us, such as matters like precipitous labor, your failure to call or otherwise notify us that you are in labor, the agreement shall not be terminated and you shall be responsible for all matters set forth herein, including payment of the remainder of our fees. In the case of precipitous labor or failure to notify us, we may be able to join you after the birth. In this circumstance, you understand that we will remain with you for a period of time to help you get settled and establish breastfeeding just as if one of us were present during the actual birth.

**Cesarean Births:**

If you have a cesarean section birth, planned or emergency, you understand and agree that all fees stated here in shall remain the same. One of us will stay and offer as much support as the hospital medical staff will allow. It is up to you to secure our place in the operating room. If you have a scheduled cesarean, one of us will meet you at the hospital at your scheduled time. We will accompany you in the operating room (if allowed by medical staff) and remain with you during recovery, and offer emotional support and breastfeeding support after the birth. If for some reason we are not allowed to be present in the operating room (emergency, policy, etc.) you understand and agree that one of us will join you when your care provider allows after the birth.

**Client’s Responsibilities**

You understand and agree that you are solely responsible for your medical well-being. You are responsible for informing the primary caregiver (e.g. OB, midwife etc) a doula will be present at your birth and assuring we will be allowed to serve you. You will first notify your primary care provider and then notify us of any pregnancy or non-pregnancy complications when they arise. We prefer you call us when you think you are in labor, even if you do not yet need one of us yet. We can answer questions and make suggestions over the phone. Together we will decide if one of us should come right then or wait for further changes (We usually need approximately 2 hours to get to you from the time you ask me to come). We will also decide where to meet (your home or the hospital). Except for extraordinary circumstances, One of us or a back-up doula will remain with you throughout the labor and birth.

### Limitations of Doula Practice

### As a Doula, you understand and agree that we do not guarantee any outcomes.

**As a Doula, you understand and agree that we do not make decisions for you.** This is your responsibility. We will help you get the information necessary to make an informed decision. We will also remind you if there is a departure from the preferences you had prior to labor.

**As a Doula, you understand and agree that we do not perform clinical tasks** such as blood pressure readings, fetal heart checks, vaginal exams, and others. We are there to provide only physical comfort, emotional support, and advocacy.

**As a Doula, you understand and agree that we do not speak to the staff on your behalf.** We will discuss your concerns with you and suggest options, but you or your partner will speak on your behalf to the clinical staff.

We will make every effort to provide the doula services described herein. Sometimes this is impossible (for example, with a rapid labor). If our failure to attend your birth or send a backup is due to our error or due to circumstances beyond anyone’s reasonable control, there will be no charge for my services beyond the $250 non-refundable retainer fee, which covers the cost of prenatal visit(s) and our serving availability. If our failure to attend your birth is due to your failure to call, I will keep, or you will owe, the agreed upon full cost of service.

You understand, acknowledge and agree that we make no representations or warranties of any kind, whether express or implied (either in fact or by operation of law), with respect to the doula services or the outcome of your birth.

In the event of any dispute arising with respect to the doula services or this agreement, you understand and agree that our maximum liability to you will be the fees paid pursuant to this agreement. In no event shall either party be liable to the other party or any other person for any incidental, indirect, special, exemplary, punitive or consequential damages, regardless of whether such liability, is based on breach of contract, tort (including negligence), strict liability, breach of warranty, failure of essential purpose or otherwise, and even if advised of the likelihood of such damages.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Initial from Client

**Fees - Please choose the option that best suits your needs**

Better than the Basics ($1550) ☐

2 prenatal and 1 postnatal session, 24/7 on-call support during labor, birth and immediately postpartum

Basics ($1150) ☐

1 prenatal and virtual/phone and email support postpartum, 24/7 on-call support during labor, birth and immediately postpartum

**Payment will be made as follows**

$ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Half of full cost is required as a retainer fee, due when you select us as your doula team, with remainder of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ paid by 36 weeks of pregnancy

 or

$ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Full payment paid at time you select us as your doula team

Signed by client: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed by client: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Bethany Leclerc (doula) or Becca Schillaci (doula): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Next Steps\*

Please send one signed copy of the Doula/Client Agreement along with intake form to:
A Golden Birth c/o Bethany Leclerc 32 Oak Street Hudson MA 01749

\*Deposit or full payment can be paid with check to the address above

or with a credit card online through paypal with a 3% processing fee to agoldenbirth@gmail.com