

**Midwives and Money:**

**Our Philosophy and Approach**

We feel privileged to be called to the profession of midwifery. It is truly an honor and privilege to assist individuals and families during this transformative time. We practice out of a deep desire to serve, to act as guardians of the normal process of birth, and to help facilitate the transition into parenthood. To accomplish this, we practice in a manner that encourages as much emotional and physical contact as desired by the pregnant parents with us during the prenatal period. Closeness, confidence, and trust established during the pregnancy help a family through labor and birth. This same support continues on into the postpartum period. A connection of the heart is established that goes beyond a simple business relationship. Midwifery care is a service provided that is based on relationships.

When seen in this context, the subject of money becomes awkward. *Yet, we cannot survive or continue to offer midwifery services if we are not supported by the community that employs us***.** Midwifery is a dedicated profession with strenuous hours and immense responsibility. In order to practice in a competent fashion, this requires a sizable investment in equipment, supplies, instruments, man-hours, incidental business costs, and rental fees for an office. The basic requirements for monitoring pregnancy and labor come to thousands of dollars. Added to this are the miscellaneous costs of refilling oxygen tanks and replacing urine test sticks, herbs, and medications. In addition to these basic expenses are the costs of updating and expanding our skills and knowledge in the field in order to provide our clients with current, evidence-based care. Finally, please consider that money should not be the deciding factor in whether to birth at home using the services of a midwife. Your belief in, and commitment to homebirth, as well as your sense of your midwife’s commitment to you and your care, should form the basis of your decision to work with them. Please take the time to discuss which payment options suit your current financial situation.

We offer pregnant families care during pregnancy, labor, birth and postpartum. Our midwives are Certified Professional Midwives practicing legally within the state of Missouri. As such, we are trained and able to follow the client throughout the normal childbearing cycle. We may also have students training with us at various times throughout your care. Whenever significant deviations from normal arise, consultation with a medical physician will be obtained or referral for care made. It is the philosophy of our practice that the maximum safety of mother and infant can be achieved only when preparation for birth is regarded as a mutual responsibility of client and midwife. Whenever possible, decisions about your care will be made in consultation with you. Please do not hesitate at any time to ask questions about our service as well as anything that concerns you, your baby or your family. Please remember that no question is too small. The midwife has on hand at your birth all standard equipment and supplies necessary for normal childbirth at home or in an out-of-hospital setting. There are, however, highly specialized services and equipment which are only available at some hospital units and/or in the hands of experienced medical physicians or other providers. Though birth may be unpredictable, our care will not be. We are dedicated to you and to our profession.

Truly,

The Birth Wisely Midwives