

Example Policy & Procedure: Informed Consent

Effective Date: [Insert Date]

Last Reviewed: [Insert Date]

Next Review Due: [Insert Date]

Purpose

To ensure that all clients receive comprehensive, clear, and culturally appropriate information necessary to make informed decisions about their care, and that informed consent is obtained and documented in accordance with Washington State law and ethical midwifery practice.

Policy

All midwifery clients have the right to receive complete and comprehensible information about the risks, benefits, and alternatives to proposed procedures, tests, or treatments. Informed consent must be obtained before initiating any intervention and must be documented in the client record. Consent is a process, not a form.

Procedure

1. Informed Consent Process

- Explain the proposed intervention or procedure in plain language.
- Describe the potential benefits and risks associated with the intervention.
- Offer evidence-based alternatives, including the option to decline.
- Assess client understanding and answer all questions.
- Document the conversation and the client's decision in the chart.

2. Timing and Documentation

- Consent should be obtained in a non-emergent setting whenever possible.
- Clients should be given adequate time to consider their choices.
- Written consent forms should be signed for procedures of significant risk.
- Verbal consent should be clearly documented in the chart when written consent is not applicable.

3. Special Considerations

- Use interpreter services when language barriers are present.
- Modify explanations as needed for clients with disabilities or cognitive limitations.
- Respect cultural preferences and decision-making styles.

Midwife's Practice Name, Logo, Contact Info

4. Refusals and Withdrawals of Consent

- Clients may refuse or withdraw consent at any time.
- The refusal or withdrawal must be documented, including any follow-up counseling provided.

Responsible Parties

All licensed midwives and any students or assistants involved in obtaining client consent must adhere to this policy.

Review Process

This policy shall be reviewed annually or as needed in response to legal, regulatory, or clinical practice changes.

Disclaimer: The sample documents, templates, and guidance provided by the Washington JUA are intended for informational and educational purposes only. They do not constitute legal advice, clinical directives, or regulatory requirements. Each midwifery practice is responsible for reviewing and adapting these materials in accordance with current Washington State laws, professional standards, and the specific needs of their practice. The Washington JUA assumes no responsibility for how these resources are used or interpreted.