

About OFSB

Ohio Families for Safe Birth (OFSB) is a statewide coalition of organizations, professionals and families vested in maternal child health policy, partnering with Ohio midwives pursuing licensure and regulation. OFSB is a member of the Big Push for Midwives, a nationally coordinated campaign to advocate for regulation and licensure of Certified Professional Midwives in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The coalition is guided by its executive committee which includes birth professionals, other professionals, and a strong consumer presence. The executive committee answers to its board and is guided by its mission statement of protecting families by supporting legislation that licenses Certified Professional Midwives in Ohio. The coalition optimizes and amplifies the strengths and effectiveness of member organizations in the legislative campaign for licensed Certified Professional Midwives.

Every year in Ohio almost 1000 babies are born at home.

These babies and their mothers deserve to have the best care available - the care of a well-trained midwife with experience in out-of-hospital settings.

Did You Know:

- For low-risk pregnancies, home birth with a qualified midwife is a safe choice for mothers and babies
- Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) are the only maternity health care providers who are trained and practice primarily in out-of-hospital settings
- The CPM credential is used by 22 states as part of their regulatory process for midwives specializing in out-of-hospital birth
- Because Ohio has no laws regulating the practice of non-nurse (direct-entry) midwifery, Ohio midwives are vulnerable to prosecution and criminal charges for helping families have the safest possible birth



Ohio Families for Safe Birth

(OFSB) is a consumer-driven effort to create a statewide coalition of families and professionals promoting legislation and policies grounded in the Midwives Model of Care which support families' access to safe, appropriate, evidence-based care during pregnancy, labor, delivery and postpartum. Our purposes are:

- Supporting legislation that licenses Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) in Ohio;
- Raising awareness and support for families choosing an out-of-hospital birth as a safe, appropriate option;
- Supporting safe family and baby initiatives in all birth settings.

www.safebirthohio.org

Ohio Families for Safe Birth would like to invite you to join a statewide effort to ensure that every family choosing home birth in 2010 has access to care from a licensed Certified Professional Midwife. You don't need to have chosen home birth yourself. You need only agree that:

Ohio mothers and families who are planning a home birth should have access to qualified midwives.

The current environment puts thousands of Ohio families at risk of not having access to trained, licensed care providers. Both individuals and organizations are encouraged to join the coalition. Together, we can make home birth safer for mothers and babies.

When you add your name to our contact database, OFSB can keep you informed about the progress of OFSB's CPM licensure initiative and other coalition activities and alert you immediately when action is needed. We will not share your information or use it for any other purpose.

You can help!

There are many ways supporters can help OFSB move forward.

- Provide a contact within your organization
- Set up a phone tree within your organization
- Using that phone tree, assist in spreading the word to your membership of activities within the midwifery community or of certain needs -- such as the need to write or call one's Senator or Representative to support legislation
- Allow Ohio midwifery-related information to be distributed to your membership via mailings or via publishing in your organization's newsletter
- Donate postage for mass mailings
- Make a financial donation to the legal defense fund for Ohio midwives facing prosecution
- Make a financial donation directly to the Coalition to help support our activities and lobbying
- Encourage other organizations to join the Coalition
- Volunteer to provide time and/or creative assistance on

Yes, I support access to Certified Professional Midwives for Ohio mothers and families who are planning a home birth!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please send me updates and action alerts by email.

I would like to know more about volunteer opportunities with OFSB. Please contact me.

I am a doctor. Please send me an information package for Ohio Physicians for Midwifery.

Please return this form to:

**Ohio Families for Safe Birth
3814 Dust Commander
Fairfield Township, OH 45011**