



Protect Moms and Kids: Nurse Midwives and the Collaborative Agreements with Physicians

Current state law protects pregnant moms and their children by requiring certified nurse midwives to maintain a written collaborative agreement with a physician who has post-graduate experience in obstetrics. This commonsense requirement helps ensure ready expertise when it is time for delivery.

Wisconsin State Statutes - s.441.15(2)

(2) Except as provided [in other statutes] no person may engage in the practice of nurse-midwifery unless each of the following conditions is satisfied:

(a) The person is issued a license by the board . . .

(b) The practice occurs in a health care facility approved by the board by rule . . . in collaboration with a physician with postgraduate training in obstetrics, and pursuant to a written agreement with that physician.

Assembly Bill 568/Senate Bill 497 is wide-reaching legislation promoted by various nursing groups, including changing the title of certain advanced degree nurses to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN). While most of the changes in the bill are generally acceptable, one provision is not: deleting the statute section detailing the requirement for these written collaborative agreements.

In a State Capitol meeting earlier this legislative session that included nurses and their lobbyists, legislators, hospital representatives and physician representatives, some of the nurses at the meeting indicated that the bills are designed to be a step toward allowing independent nursing practice.

Request to Legislators: Please protect moms and their babies by ensuring the statutes require certified nurse midwives to have a strong collaborative agreement with a physician as a condition for taking care of pregnant moms. Either amend the bill to restore that statutory section or oppose the bill overall if the bill remains as is.

The Basics

Assembly Bill 568 / Senate Bill 497 (companion bills)

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