

CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFE

A Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) is a knowledgeable, skilled and professional primary maternity care provider. CPMs are trained and credentialed to offer expert care, education, counseling and support to birthing people during the pregnancy, birth and the postpartum periods. CPMs practice as autonomous health professionals working within a network of relationships with other care providers who can provide consultation and collaboration when needed. All CPMs meet the standards for certification set by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM).



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CPMs provide unique and critical access to normal physiologic birth, profoundly benefiting birthing people and newborns. They have particular training and expertise in providing care in homes and free standing birth centers.

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Certified Professional Midwives are a fast-growing branch of the midwifery profession in the United States with 36 states licensing CPMs nationally. Licensure for CPMs in Kentucky is from the Kentucky Board of Nursing. In 2023, there are currently 32 Licenced CPMs.



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National certification requires demonstrating knowledge and skills and to have performed competently as primary midwife under supervision. Certification is renewed every three years, and all CPMs must obtain continuing education and participate in peer review for recertification. In addition, each CPM is required to have written practice guidelines, a process for informed disclosure and consent with clients, including a HIPAA privacy policy.

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In 2021, CPMs in Kentucky served 561 clients and families. In 2022, 753 clients and families were served by CPMs. Growing the CPM profession in Kentucky will help increase access to prenatal care.

