

CHILDBIRTH COMMITTEE FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the complexity of each of the findings listed above, the Committee has not had sufficient time to develop the substantial recommendations needed to change the educational and testing requirements that would allow for the issuance of a certificate to practice naturopathic childbirth attendance. Notwithstanding the challenges of educational and testing standards, naturopathic childbirth attendance cannot be implemented in California without the cooperation of malpractice insurance companies who disallow the supervision of naturopathic doctors by medical doctors by promising to cancel their coverage.

Following are recommendations to facilitate implementation by the Bureau of a certificate to practice naturopathic childbirth attendance:

- The Bureau should develop regulations governing the issuance of a certificate to practice naturopathic childbirth attendance.

- The Department of Consumer Affairs should propose clean-up legislation that would change Section 3651 by replacing “ACNM” with “AMCB” and add the “ACNO and NARM tests;”
or
- The Bureau should recognize that the ACNO and NARM tests are equivalent to the ACNM and develop regulations stating such.

- The Committee should continue to analyze childbirth education offered by the naturopathic colleges in order to make future recommendations for regulations and/or legislation to establish reasonable standards of education in place of the midwifery language currently in Section 3651(a).

- California naturopathic doctors should dialog with the medical community and malpractice insurance companies to communicate the level of naturopathic childbirth education and training in order to allow medical doctors the ability to supervise naturopathic doctors without MDs losing their insurance.