



Birth Resource Network

Professional Association of Independent Doulas

3802 Alameda Way
Bonita, CA 91902
Phone (619) 525-7753

Membership Information /What is BRN?

Birth Resource Network is an association of independent professional doulas dedicated to assisting in creating healthy childbirth and a positive childbirth experience for mothers, babies and families by working for the following mission: No woman will be denied labor support because of inability to pay; educating parents, the community and healthcare professionals about options in pregnancy and childbirth and about the benefits of doula-assisted birth and postnatal care; providing on-going training to our membership for the improvement of our skills and expertise. We have several levels of membership. Please review the following and indicate on the form which level applies to you. Thank you for considering membership with BRN.

Levels of membership, Dues, Level of Participation

- A. Active members - Dues \$40/yr. May hold office and vote, must sign agreement to uphold code of ethics/ standards of practice as outlined by DONA, completed doula training (DONA, ALACE or other), completed required doula reading, and attend 7 meetings per year. Certified doulas are required to attend only 4 meetings per year to remain on the BRN Directory and maintain active status.
1. Practicing in field (CBE, CLE, Doula, CLC, etc.)
 2. Uncertified doulas need to attend minimum of 7 meetings per year (reviewed on individual basis if extenuating circumstances).
 3. Must be independently practicing doula (defined as - Sole proprietors of their practice with no legal or financial partners). This therefore precludes individuals with business partnerships, agencies or companies/corporations used in promoting, supporting, advertising and running their doula business. This means, if you belong to another Doula group, you are not eligible for BRN membership as an active member. You could, however, join BRN as a professional member.
 4. Individuals having experience equivalent to training as noted above (to be individually reviewed and approved by Board of Officers)
 5. Founding member status closed 9/14/97. Founders must have attended minimum of 1 previous setup meeting (including 9/14/97), been involved in helping put the organization together and be an active member of a committee.
- B. Non-Participating members – Dues \$100/yr. Same as active members, but do not have meeting attendance requirements.
- C. Professional: Dues \$50/yr. May attend meetings, receive newsletter, may serve on committees but not chair and may not vote.
1. Right to advertise membership in our organization
 2. May receive referrals from BRN
 3. Possible members include "Family Friendly" Chiropractors, Midwives, Homeopaths, Dentists, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Physicians, etc.
 4. BRN approved company sales reps (i.e., pumps, diapers & other baby friendly orgs)
 5. Other associations BRN chooses to affiliate with
- D. Supporting members - Dues \$40/yr. Individuals interested in supporting those practicing in the field, interested in supporting "family friendly" childbirth. May attend meetings, receive newsletter, participate with committees, but may not chair and may not vote.

Birth Resource Network

3802 Alameda Way
Bonita, CA 91902
(619) 525-7753

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Coleen Salazar
President
(760) 644-1826
CRSalazar@cox.net

Dawn Thompson
Vice President
(760) 942-8470
douladawn@adelphia.net

Becky Gonzalez
Treasurer
(760) 458-5100
alohabecky@cox.net

Heather LeMaster
Corresponding Secretary
(619) 565-8831
heather.lemaster@cox.net

Laurie Rahe & Linda Goldsmith
Recording Secretaries
(858) 581-1143 or (760) 633-3344
LaurieRahe@earthlink.net
ohlindagoldsmith@hotmail.com

Donna Hayes
Membership
(760) 930-1323
msdhayes@adelphia.net

Angela Burshteyn
Media Chair
(858) 566-1343
doulaAngeB@yahoo.com

We are glad you are considering joining **Birth Resource Network (BRN)**! We are an organization designed to meet the needs of both birth and post partum doulas. From the beginning, BRN has offered doula companionship, education, networking and professional affiliation. Together we bring awareness to our communities that doula care changes lives.

Here are some good reasons to join BRN:

- § Monthly in-services on important topics
- § Networking with local doulas
- § Awareness of other educational opportunities
- § Discount membership fees with DONA
- § Referral of potential clients by mail and phone
- § On line listing of services provided with BRN web site
- § Easy access to BRN newsletter

If you would like to support the doula profession, join with us to uphold our mission statement:

BRN is an association of independent professional doulas dedicated to assisting in creating healthy childbirth and a positive childbirth experience for mother's, babies and families by:

- ◆ *Making our services affordable for every woman who wants a doula*
- ◆ *Educating parents, the community and health care professionals about options in pregnancy and childbirth and about the benefits of doula-assisted birth and postnatal care.*
- ◆ *Providing on-going training to our membership for the improvement of our skills and expertise.*

In order to join, please fill out the enclosed application. Send your application with a check for \$40 (\$50 for professional, or \$100 for non-participating) made payable to BRN to:

Birth Resource Network
c/o Donna Hayes
6803 Adolphia Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92011

If you have any questions about BRN Membership, please contact Donna Hayes at 760-930-1323 or by e-mail at msdhayes@adelphia.net .

BIRTH RESOURCE NETWORK
3802 Alameda Way
Bonita, CA 91902

Membership Application

Applicants Name _____

Business Name _____ Type of Business _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

HomePhone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

Fax() _____ E-Mail _____

I am applying for (please circle one) Active (\$40/yr), Non-participating(\$100/yr), Professional(\$50/yr), or supporting (\$40/yr) membership in Birth Resource Network

If applying for active membership, are you DONA or ALACE trained? _____

If yes, when / where? _____ By whom? _____

If certified, please include a copy of your current certification.

If no, please write on a separate sheet of paper a brief bio of your experience.

If applying for active or apprentice membership (please initial your answers)

Are you the sole proprietor of your practice? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have any legal or financial partners? Yes _____ No _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for one (1) year membership in Birth Resource Network.
Please make check payable to Birth Resource Network.

I understand this application will be used in determining my eligibility for membership in Birth Resource Network. I certify all above information is true and correct.

Signature _____ Date _____

I. Rules of Conduct

- A. *Propriety*. The doula should maintain high standards of personal conduct in the capacity or identity as Labor Support Provider.
- B. *Competence and Professional Development*. The doula should strive to become and remain proficient in the professional practice and the performance of professional functions through continuing education, affiliation with related organizations, and associations with other Labor Support Providers.
- C. *Integrity*. The doula should act in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity.

II. Ethical Responsibility to Clients

- A. *Primacy of Client's Interests*. The doula's primary responsibility is to her clients.
- B. *Rights and Prerogatives of Clients*. The doula should make every effort to foster maximum self-determination on the part of her clients.
- C. *Confidentiality and Privacy*. The doula should respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence all information obtained in the course of professional service.
- D. *Obligation to Serve*. The doula should assist each client seeking labor support either by providing services or making appropriate referrals.
- E. *Reliability*. When the doula agrees to work with a particular client, her obligation is to do so reliably, without fail, for the term of the agreement.
- F. *Fees*. When setting fees, the doula should ensure that they are fair, reasonable, considerate, and commensurate with service performed and with due regard for the client's ability to pay.

III. Ethical Responsibility to Colleagues

- A. *Respect, Fairness, and Courtesy*. The doula should treat colleagues with respect, courtesy, fairness and good faith.
- B. *Dealing with Colleagues' Clients*. The doula has the responsibility to relate to the clients of colleagues with full professional consideration.

IV. Ethical Responsibility to the Labor Support Profession

- A. *Maintaining the Integrity of the Profession*. The doula should uphold and advance the values, ethics, knowledge, and mission of the profession.
- B. *Community Service*. The doula should assist the profession in making labor support services available to the general public.

V. Ethical Responsibility to Society.

- A. *Promoting Maternal and Child Welfare*. The doula should promote the general health of women and their babies, and whenever possible, that of their family and friends as well.

By signing this document, I agree to abide by DONA'S Code of Ethics.

Name

Date

I. Scope

A. *Services Rendered.* The doula accompanies the woman in labor, provides emotional and physical support, suggests comfort measures, and provides support and suggestions for the partner. Whenever possible, the doula provides pre- and post-partum emotional support, including explanation and discussion of practices and procedures, as needed.

B. *Limits to Practice.* The doula **does not perform clinical or medical tasks** such as taking blood pressure or temperature, fetal heart tone checks, vaginal exams or postpartum clinical care. DONA Standards and Certification apply to emotional and physical support only. Doulas who are also health care professionals may provide these services within the scope and standards of their professions.

C. *Advocacy.* The doula advocates for the client's wishes as expressed in her birth plan, in prenatal conversations, and intrapartum discussion. She helps the mother incorporate changes in plans if and when the need arises, and enhances communication between the client and the care giver. Clients and doulas must recognize that the advocacy role does not include the doula speaking on behalf of the client or making decisions for the client. The advocacy role is best described as support, information, and mediation or negotiation.

D. *Referrals.* For client needs beyond the scope of the doula's training, referrals are made to appropriate resources.

II. Continuity of Care

The doula should make back-up arrangements with another doula to ensure services to the client if the doula is sick or unable to be reached. Should any doula feel the need to discontinue service to an established client, it is the doula's responsibility to notify the client in writing and arrange for a replacement, if the client so desires. This may be accomplished by:

A. Introducing the client's back-up. B. Suggesting that another member of Doulas of North America (DONA) or another doula may be more appropriate for the situation. C. Contacting DONA Regional Representative or local doula organization for the names of other doulas in the area. D. Following up with the client or back-up doula to make sure the client's needs are being accommodated.

III. Training and Experience

A. *Training.* Doulas who are certified by DONA will have completed all the requirements set forth in the DONA Requirements for Certification. This includes training in childbirth and **a labor support course** which consists of at least fourteen hours of training, read four books from the **DONA Reading List**, and completion of an essay on the value and purpose of labor support. See the **DONA Requirements for Certification** for more detail on Training and Experience.

B. *Experience.* Doulas certified by DONA will have the experience as set forth in the **DONA Requirements for Certification**. This includes provision of support to at least three clients, good evaluations from clients and health care providers, and records of three births, including summary, observation form and accounts for each birth.

C. *Maintenance of Certification.* DONA-certified doulas will maintain certification as outlined in the DONA recertification packet. Recertification must be completed after each three-year period of practice.

IV. Record Keeping

A. *Documentation.* The doula maintains clear and accurate records of each client encounter and the birth.

B. *Data Collection.* The doula collects and submits to DONA on a regular basis data on the clients she provides services to, and the outcome of their pregnancies and labors.

By signing this document, I agree to abide by DONA'S Standards of Practice

Name

Date