



August 15, 2014

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

On behalf of the 1500 midwives licensed by New York State since the passage of the Midwifery Practice Act in 1992, I am writing in response to your recent advertisement for a Certified Nurse Midwife licensed in the state of New York.

The Midwifery Practice Act established a Board of Midwifery, which regulates the profession of Midwifery under the State Education Department and separates midwifery from nursing and medicine. Under the 1992 law, a midwife may obtain a license to practice without also being a registered nurse.

New York State licensure requires an applicant to complete a master's or higher degree program in midwifery or a related field that is:

- registered by the Department as licensure qualifying; or
- accredited by the American College of Nurse Midwives Division of Accreditation; or
- determined by the Department to be equivalent of such a registered or accredited program.

After graduating, midwives must pass a licensing exam.

Therefore, under New York State law, the term "nurse-midwife" is not an appropriate or legal designation for the profession of midwifery. In New York State, "Licensed Midwife" or LM is the legal designation for licensed midwives. Whether midwives do or do not have nursing degrees or licenses, all are designated in NYS as *licensed midwives*. All licensed midwives in New York State have identical midwifery training and identical midwifery scope of practice.

In addition to state licensure, midwives who graduate from an ACME accredited program also become nationally certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB), for which they use the designation CNM or CM. A midwife's certification alone does not give her the right to practice in New York State.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact our organization at [newyorkmidwives@gmail.com](mailto:newyorkmidwives@gmail.com) or call 718-644-8963. For more information, you can also refer to the Board of Midwifery at the New York State Education Department website: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/midwife/midwifelaw.htm>.

I hope that you will take NYS legal requirements into consideration and remove the requirement that applicants be nurses in order to apply for your midwifery position. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Burkhardt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patricia Burkhardt, LM, CM, DrPH, FACNM  
President, NYSALM

Attachment: American College of Nurse Midwives. "Definition of Midwifery and Scope of Practice of Certified Nurse Midwives and Certified Midwives." December 2011.