

BIRTH DOULA CERTIFICATION – An Overview of the REQUIREMENTS

(For packets purchased/received starting October 21, 2015)

- Attend a [DONA approved Birth Doula Workshop](#)
- Purchase a DONA International Birth Doula Certification Packet.
The certification packet includes detailed information and all the forms required for certification. The packet must be purchased **prior** to any support experiences intended for certification. These support experiences have to take place **after** attending the workshop.
- Read and sign the following documents:
 - DONA International Birth Doula [Code of Ethics](#)
 - DONA International Birth Doula [Standards of Practice](#)
- Complete the required reading from the [Birth Doula Required Reading List](#).
- Basics of Breastfeeding Requirement - ONE (1) of the following (A, B or C):
 - A. Proof of completion of one of the [accepted online breastfeeding study programs](#)
 - B. Completed and signed [Breastfeeding Class Attendance Verification Form](#)
 - C. Proof of completion of lactation consultant, lactation counselor or educator, breastfeeding peer counselor or community breastfeeding educator training. We will also accept documentation showing current approval as a La Leche League Leader.
- View one (1) DONA International webinar with a business theme and submit a printed copy of your certificate of completion. You may choose any of the webinars on the Every Doula Everywhere & Anytime virtual education site at <http://www.vconferenceonline.com/dona/> that are marked with an asterisk (*) to satisfy this requirement.
- Childbirth Education Requirement - ONE (1) of the following options (A, B, C or D):
 - A. Training in childbirth education or midwifery
 - You should be active as a midwife or childbirth educator at the time of submission, or retired less than three (3) years prior to it.
 - B. Recent experience in labor and delivery as a licensed practical or registered nurse
 - Your experience should be from within three (3) years of the time of your application.
 - C. Observation of an entire series of Childbirth Preparation classes taught to a group of pregnant people (as an observer, not as a participant)
 - Please check the [FAQs on the Childbirth Education Requirement](#) for tips.
 - Look for the most comprehensive series of in-person classes in your area to observe. If possible, the series of classes should be at least 12 hours of instruction time. You will need to observe the entire series of classes.
 - Complete the two-page [Childbirth Class Observation Form](#). Complete Part One from your notes; have your instructor complete and sign Part Two (at the end of the last day of classes). Then, by yourself, thoughtfully complete Part Three.
 - D. Introduction to Childbirth for Doulas class taught in conjunction with a DONA approved birth doula workshop

- Develop a list of *at least* forty-five (45) local/area resources in *at least* thirty (30) different categories. Submit the list sorted into categories in a logical way, and in a paper-saving format (e.g., as a spreadsheet or in columns), in a small but legible font size.
- Provide birth doula labor support to several clients and their families. Choose three (3) support experiences for certification.
 - All three (3) of these support experiences must take place AFTER attending the DONA approved birth doula workshop and AFTER purchasing the birth doula certification packet.
 - Additionally, these three (3) support experiences need to meet all the criteria as indicated in the certification packet.
 - For EACH of the three (3) qualifying labor support experiences you will need to submit the following documentation:
 - [DONA International Client Confidentiality Release Form](#) signed by the primary client (birthing person).
 - Good [Evaluation of Labor Support Services](#) by the birthing person, your primary client.
 - Good [Evaluation of Labor Support Services](#) by the attending midwife *or* physician *or* nurse.
 - The professional should have been informed *at the onset* that you are a doula working toward certification and *that you will be requesting an evaluation after the birth*. Ideally, the professional will also have been shown the form and the questions ahead of time, so as to know what to pay attention to.
 - The professional providing the evaluation should have been *able to observe and interact with you during the labor and birth repeatedly and/or over a period of time*.
 - Birth Doula Support Record Sheets
NOTE: Choose the form corresponding to the type of birth you attended. Only one (1) cesarean birth may be submitted for certification. Your certification packet includes three (3) options:
 - 1) For labor ending in a vaginal birth
 - 2) For labor ending in an unplanned or emergency cesarean birth
 - 3) For a planned cesarean birth without preceding labor
- Essay on the Value and Purpose of Labor Support
- Written Reference from Perinatal Health Professional
- Client Reference in a sealed envelope
- Current membership with DONA International
- Pay certification application fee