

# Medical Patient Rights of Women (Pregnancy and Childbirth)

Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) is committed to ensuring all women in the State of Illinois receive the essential care they need upon notice of the pregnancy and continued medical care throughout the first year of the baby's life. Under [Public Act 101-0445](#), effective January 1, 2020, the Medical Patient Rights Act was amended by requiring information about rights with regard to pregnancy and childbirth.

In general, with regard to pregnancy and childbirth, every woman has the right to:

- receive health care before, during, and after pregnancy and childbirth
- receive care for her and her infant that is consistent with generally accepted medical standards
- choose a certified nurse midwife or physician as her maternity care professional
- choose her birth setting from the full range of birthing options available in her community
- leave her maternity care professional and select another if she becomes dissatisfied with her care
- receive information about the names of those health care professionals involved in her care
- privacy and confidentiality of records
- receive information concerning her condition and proposed treatment
- accept or refuse any treatment
- be informed if her caregivers wish to enroll her or her infant in a research study
- access her medical records
- receive information in a language in which she can communicate
- receive emotional and physical support during labor and birth
- freedom of movement during labor and to give birth in the position of her choice
- contact with her newborn
- receive information about breastfeeding
- decide collaboratively with caregivers when she and her baby will leave the birth site for home
- be treated with respect at all times before, during, and after pregnancy by her health care professionals
- examine and receive a reasonable explanation of her total bill for services

We will advocate for the basic rights of family of the newborn and continue to collaborate with organizations who share the same goals in effort to strengthen maternal and child health outcomes for women and children in the State of Illinois.