



## POSITION STATEMENT

### **Definition of BIRTH CENTER**

The birth center is a health care facility for childbirth where care is provided in the midwifery and wellness model. The birth center is freestanding and not a hospital.

Birth centers are an integrated part of the health care system and are guided by principles of prevention, sensitivity, safety, appropriate medical intervention and cost-effectiveness. While the practice of midwifery and the support of physiologic birth and newborn transition may occur in other settings, this is the exclusive model of care in a birth center.

The birth center respects and facilitates a woman's right to make informed choices about her health care and her baby's health care based on her values and beliefs. The woman's family, as she defines it, is welcome to participate in the pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period.

Approved by AABC Board of Directors: 10.1.1995, Revised 4.23.2017