



Birth Center Definitions

AABC General Definition

The American Association of Birth Centers (AABC) defines a birth center as a home-like facility existing within a healthcare system with a program of care designed in the wellness model of pregnancy and birth. Birth centers are guided by principles of prevention, sensitivity, safety, appropriate medical intervention and cost effectiveness.

Birth centers provide family-centered care for healthy women before, during, and after normal pregnancy, labor, and birth.

Approved by AABC Board of Directors: 10.1.1995

AABC Standards for Birth Centers

The birth center is a place for childbirth where care is provided in the midwifery and wellness model. The birth center is freestanding, or distinctly separate from acute care services within a hospital. 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. Birth centers are guided by principles of prevention, sensitivity, safety, appropriate medical intervention, and cost effectiveness. 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 welcomed to participate in the pregnancy, birth and postpartum period.

AABC Standards for Birth Centers – revised 2016

AABC Legal Definition

The AABC also defined birth centers for regulatory purposes in its 1983 position statement "Legal Definition of a Birth Center."

Whereas: The American Public Health Association has adopted Guidelines for Licensing and Regulating Birth Centers which states that a birth center is:

"Any health facility, place or institution which is not a hospital or in a hospital and where births are planned to occur away from the mother's residence following normal, uncomplicated pregnancy," and

Whereas: The definition of Birth Center adopted by the APHA does not represent any attempt to regulate medical practice in doctors' offices, rather to stipulate that if a birth facility of any kind is incorporated in or added to a physician's office - that birth facility shall be defined as a birth center and be subject to regulation of same, and

Whereas: In several states, births are being attended by physicians in their offices without benefit of regulations or any standards for safety, and

Whereas: Health Departments have a responsibility to the public that supersedes the interest of any vested group, and

Whereas: If care during labor and birth, other than in the woman's usual place of residence, is to be regulated for one health care provider or health care facility, it must be regulated for all health care providers and facilities regardless of corporate status, professional privilege or institutional investment.

Be It Resolved That: The policy and position of the American Association of Birth Centers shall be that, in order to assure the safety of the childbearing public, any health facility, place, professional office or institution which is not a hospital or in a hospital and where births are planned to occur away from the mother's residence following normal, uncomplicated pregnancy, should be regulated as a birth center.

Adopted by AABC Board of Directors: 11.11.1983

CMS (federal definition)

A birth center is a facility, other than a hospital's maternity facilities or a physician's office, which provides a setting for labor, delivery, and immediate post-partum care as well as immediate care of newborn infants.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Place of Service Codes for Professional Claims Database

Birth Centers Defined in Federal Statute

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act added a statutory definition of "freestanding birth center" to section 1905(l)(3) of the Social Security Act:

42 U.S.C. § 1396(l)(3)

(B) The term "freestanding birth center" means a health facility –

- (i) that is not a hospital;
- (ii) where childbirth is planned to occur away from the pregnant woman's residence;
- (iii) that is licensed or otherwise approved by the State to provide prenatal, labor and delivery or postpartum care and other ambulatory services that are included in the plan; and

(iv) that complies with such other requirements relating to the health and safety of individuals furnished services by the facility as the State shall establish.

United States Government. Social Security Act. 42 USC § 1396a(a)(10)(A)

Birth Centers in Levels of Maternal Care

The ACOG/SMFM Obstetric Care Consensus document “Levels of Maternal Care” defines birth centers: Peripartum care of low-risk women with uncomplicated singleton term pregnancies with a vertex presentation who are expected to have an uncomplicated birth.

Levels of Maternal Care. 2015

Birth Centers in the FGI Guidelines

The Facilities Guidelines Institute defines birth centers in the *FGI Guidelines*:

A freestanding birth center is exclusively dedicated to serving childbirth-related needs of women and their newborns. A birth center is any health facility, place, or institution that is not a hospital or in a hospital where birth is planned to occur away from the mother’s residence following a normal, uncomplicated pregnancy.

Facilities Guidelines Institute. FGI Guidelines 2014. 3.4-1

Birth Centers in the NFPA Life Safety Code

The National Fire Protection Association defines birth centers in the *Life Safety Code*:

3.3.33 Birth Center. A facility in which low-risk births are expected following normal, uncomplicated pregnancies, and in which professional midwifery care is provided to women during pregnancy, birth and postpartum.

A.3.3.33 Birth Center. A birth center is a low-volume service for healthy, childbearing women, and their families, who are capable of ambulation in the event of fire or fire-threatening events. Birth center mothers and babies have minimal analgesia, receive no general or regional anesthesia, and are capable of ambulation, even in second-stage labor.

National Fire Protection Association. NFPA Life Safety Code 2015

Birth Centers in Billing Standards

1. **Facility Taxonomy** – Birthing, 261QB0400X – Based on Type: Level III Area of Specialization, “a freestanding birth center is a health facility other than a hospital where childbirth is planned to occur away from the pregnant woman’s residence, and that provides prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum care, as well as other ambulatory services for women and newborns.” (*Source: Washington Publishing Co. & Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. §1396d(1)(3)(B)] [1/1/2013: added definition]*)

2. **Facility Billing Codes** – The “Type of Bill” is 084x for Freestanding Birthing Center; and the “Revenue Code” is 0724 for labor room or delivery at a Birthing Center. (Source: *National Uniform Billing Committee, NUBC - publishes the UB-04/CMS 1450*)
3. **Provider Billing Codes** – The “Place of Service Code” is 25 for Birthing Center and 11 for Hospital. (Source: *National Uniform Claim Committee, NUCC – publishes the CMS 1500*)

Birth Centers in Industry Classifications

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is a system for classifying establishments (individual business locations) by type of economic activity.

621498 = All Other Outpatient Care Centers (includes birth centers)

NAICS United States, 2017 Manual – January 2017

Birth Centers Defined in State Regulations

Thirty-nine states and the District of Columbia have birth center specific regulations for licensing birth centers. In each of these state regulations birth centers have been defined for regulatory purposes. Many of these definitions are based on the *APHA Guidelines for Licensing and Regulating Birth Centers* (see above).

Alabama

No regs

Alaska

7 AAC 12.401. Determination of a free-standing birth center; scope of services

(a) Subject to (b) of this section, the department will consider an entity to be a free-standing birth center if the entity

(1) is a publicly or privately owned facility, place, or institution that is constructed, renovated, leased, rented, or otherwise established;

(2) is a place

(A) where midwifery services are provided;

(B) that is physically separate from acute care obstetrical services;

(C) that is administratively autonomous from a hospital or other health facility; and

(D) that has a separate and required staff, including administrative staff;

(3) is located within 20 miles by road from a hospital that provides the services required under 7 AAC 12.405(g) ; and

(4) provides planned, nonemergency midwifery services for low-risk maternal clients

(A) away from the client's residence; a birth center may not offer or provide labor or delivery services at a location other than its licensed premises;

- (B) after a documented period of prenatal care for a normal, uncomplicated pregnancy that is determined to be low-risk through physical examinations, and through risk assessments conducted in accordance with the standards developed under 7 AAC 12.403(f) ; and
- (C) who do not require hospitalization.

(b) Notwithstanding (a)(2)(B), (C), and (D) of this section, a hospital or other health facility may own and operate a birth center if

- (1) the birth center is physically separate from the hospital's obstetrical unit;
- (2) each primary care provider in the birth center is a midwife;
- (3) the birth center operates as an administratively autonomous department and is responsible for reporting directly to the governing body of the hospital or health facility on all matters concerning the birth center; and
- (4) the birth center is licensed separately.

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/folioproxy.asp?url=http://www.jnu01.legis.state.ak.us/cgi-bin/folioisa.dll/aac/query=%5bJUMP:%27Title7Chap12%212C+a%212E+9%27%5d/doc/%7b%401%7d/hits_only?firsthit

Arizona

“Birth center” means a health care facility that is not a hospital and is organized for the purpose of delivering newborns

http://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_09/9-13.pdf

Arkansas

Free-Standing Birthing Centers -any facility which is organized to provide familycentered maternity care in which births are planned to occur in a home-like atmosphere away from the mother=s usual residence following a low risk pregnancy. The facility shall not provide operative obstetrics, including use of forceps, vacuum extractions, Caesarean sections, or tubal ligations. The Free-Standing Birthing Center must be located within thirty (30) minutes of a hospital (via ambulance) which offers obstetric and nursery services and which maintains an on-call team to provide emergency Csections and stabilization of infants.

<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/aboutadh/rulesregs/freestandingbirthingcenter.pdf>

California

An "alternative birth center" means a clinic that is not part of a hospital and that provides comprehensive perinatal services and delivery care to pregnant women who remain less than 24 hours at the facility.

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=hsc&group=01001-02000&file=1200-1209>

Colorado

Birth Center – Any public or private health facility or institution which is not licensed as a hospital or as part of a hospital and provides care during delivery and immediately after delivery for generally less than twenty-four hours.

<http://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=5315>

Connecticut

Regulated under “maternity hospital” – freestanding birth center not defined

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/rpt/2007-R-0178.htm>

Delaware

“Birthing Center” means a public or private health facility other than a hospital which is established for the purpose of delivering babies and providing immediate postpartum care. Non-emergency births are planned to occur away from the mother’s usual residence following a documented period of prenatal care for a normal uncomplicated pregnancy which has been determined to be low risk through a formal risk scoring examination.

[http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title16/Department%20of%20Health%20and%20Social%20Services/Division%20of%20Public%20Health/Health%20Systems%20Protection%20\(HSP\)/4403.shtml](http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title16/Department%20of%20Health%20and%20Social%20Services/Division%20of%20Public%20Health/Health%20Systems%20Protection%20(HSP)/4403.shtml)

District of Columbia

Maternity center - a facility or other place, other than a hospital or the mother's home, that provides antepartal, intrapartal, and postpartal care for both mother and newborn infant during and after normal, uncomplicated pregnancy.

<http://doh.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/Regulations-Maternity-Ctrs.pdf>

Florida

A birth center is a licensed facility that is not an ambulatory surgical center, hospital or located within a hospital where births are planned to occur (following a normal, uncomplicated, low-risk pregnancy) away from the mother’s usual place of residence.

http://ahca.myflorida.com/MCHQ/Health_Facility_Regulation/Hospital_Outpatient/birthing.shtml

Georgia

"Birth Center", "Birthing Center" or "Center" means a facility, other than the laboring woman's legal residence, which admits persons for the purpose of childbearing and which facility has not been classified and licensed by the Department as a hospital.

<http://rules.sos.ga.gov/nllxml/georgiacodesGetcv.aspx?urlRedirected=yes&data=admin&lookingfor=290-5-41>

Hawaii

“Freestanding birthing facility” means a public or private facility whose only purpose is the reception of maternity patients and the providing of care during pregnancy, delivery, and the immediate postpartum period. The service is limited to the low risk maternity mother and her newborns. It shall not have direct financial or administrative connection with a broad service hospital.

<http://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/files/2015/06/11-93-2.pdf>

Idaho

No regs

Illinois

Birth Center - A birth center is defined in the Alternative Healthcare Delivery Act (Public Act 095-0445) as an alternative healthcare delivery model that is exclusively dedicated to serving the childbirth-related needs of women and their newborns and has no more than 10 beds. A birth center is a designated site in which births are planned to occur following a normal, uncomplicated, and low-risk pregnancy that is away from the mother’s usual place of residence.

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/bc200.pdf>

Indiana

A birthing center is a freestanding entity that has the sole purpose of delivering a normal or uncomplicated pregnancy. A birthing center does not include a hospital licensed as a hospital under Indiana Code 16-21-2.

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/20131.htm>

Iowa

“*Birth center*” means any facility, institution, or place, which is not an ambulatory surgical center or a hospital or in a hospital, in which births are planned to occur away from the mother’s usual residence following a normal, uncomplicated, low-risk pregnancy.

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iacode/2001supplement/135g/2.html>

Kansas

“Maternity center” means a facility which provides delivery services for normal, uncomplicated pregnancies but does not include a medical care facility as defined by [K.S.A. 65-425](#) and amendments thereto.

<http://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/regs/childcareliclaws/Law.pdf>

Kentucky

Alternative birth centers are establishments with permanent facilities which provide prenatal care to low risk childbearing women. An alternative birth center provides a homelike environment for pregnancy and childbirth including prenatal, labor, delivery, and postpartum care related to medically uncomplicated pregnancies.

<http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/902/020/150.htm>

Louisiana

Medicaid Definition

Birthing Centers are facilities for the primary purpose of performing low-risk deliveries but are not a hospital or licensed as part of a hospital. "Low-risk pregnancy" means a normal, uncomplicated prenatal course as determined by documentation of adequate prenatal care and the anticipation of a normal, uncomplicated labor and birth, as defined by reasonable and generally accepted criteria adopted by professional groups for maternal, fetal, and neonatal health care. Neither general nor epidural anesthesia shall be provided in the birthing center.

<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/BayouHealth/HealthPlanAdvisories/2015/HPA15-13.pdf>

Hospitals – Alternative Birthing Units – A unit located within a hospital in which delivery is expected following a low risk, normal and uncomplicated pregnancy. Care and services provided prior to, during and following childbirth are under the direction of a certified nurse-midwife.

http://dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/HSS_Hospital/Regulations/ABUs.pdf

Maine

"Birthing center" means any non-hospital health facility, institution, or place designed to accommodate mothers giving birth away from home at the culmination of normal, uncomplicated pregnancies.

<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/10/144/144c283.doc>

Maryland

(3) Freestanding Birthing Center.

(a) "Freestanding birthing center" means a facility that provides nurse midwife services through individuals licensed

to practice under Health Occupations Article, Title 8, Subtitle 6, Annotated Code of Maryland.

(b) "Freestanding birthing center" does not include:

(i) Birthing services that are licensed or accredited as a unit of a hospital; or

(ii) The private residence of the patient.

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiA1e6CkOrPAhUKed4KHbvTAYYQFggdMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fdhmh.maryland.gov%2Fohcq%2FDocuments%2FCOMAR%252010.05.02.docx&usg=AFQjCNGBn_qCwZIUyVR0MjPYQep7AVpCUw&sig2=p7Ae7-EhZpLjP3CjdvOAsw

Massachusetts

A Birth Center is a home-like facility where low risks births are planned to occur following normal, uncomplicated pregnancy. A birth center has sufficient space to accommodate participating family members and support people of the women's choice. A Birth Center provides professional midwifery practice to childbearing women during pregnancy, birth, and puerperium and to the infant during the immediate newborn period by nurse-midwives or by an obstetrician or family practitioner with obstetrical privileges in a nearby hospital licensed in Massachusetts or operated by the Commonwealth. A Birth Center has specified access to acute care obstetric and newborn services.

Free-standing Birth Center means a birth center which is not maintained and operated by a hospital. For purposes of licensure, a free-standing birth center is a clinic.

Hospital-affiliated Birth Center means a birth center which is maintained and operated by a hospital. The birth center must be nearby but not be physically attached in any manner, including connection by corridors, to any other hospital services including the obstetrics service. A birth center is not a birth room or birthing suite or other short stay in-patient service.

Free-standing birth centers are required to obtain clinic licensure pursuant to M.G.L. c. 111, §§ 51 through 56 and to comply with the licensure and administrative requirements set forth in 105 CMR 140.000: Subpart A (105 CMR 140.100 through 140.199).

Hospital-affiliated birth centers are required to operate under a hospital license issued pursuant to M.G.L. c. 111, §§ 51 through 56 and to comply with the requirements of 105 CMR 130.000: Hospital Licensure with the exception of those standards governing obstetric and newborn services (105 CMR 130.600 through 130.699).

<http://www.mass.gov/courts/docs/lawlib/104-105cmr/105cmr142.pdf>

Michigan

No regs

Minnesota

"Birth center" means a facility licensed for the primary purpose of performing low-risk deliveries that is not a hospital or licensed as part of a hospital and where births are planned to occur away from the mother's usual residence following a low-risk pregnancy.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=144.615>

Mississippi

2. Birthing Center. A "Birthing Center" shall mean a publicly or privately owned facility, place or institution constructed, renovated, leased or otherwise established where non-emergency births are planned to occur away from the mother's usual residence following a documented period of prenatal care for a normal uncomplicated pregnancy which has been determined to be low risk through a formal risk scoring examination. Care providing in a birthing center shall be provided by a

licensed physician, or certified nurse midwife and a registered nurse. Services provided in a birthing center shall be limited in the following manner:

- a. Surgical services shall be limited to those normally performed during uncomplicated childbirth, such as episiotomy and repair, and shall not include operative obstetrics or caesarean sections
 - b. Labor shall not be inhibited, stimulated or augmented with chemical agents during the first or second stage of labor
 - c. Systemic analgesia may be administered and local anesthesia for pudental block and episiotomy repair may be performed. General and conducted anesthesia shall not be administered at birthing centers
 - d. Patients shall not remain in the facility in excess of twenty-four (24) hours.
 - e. Hospitals are excluded from the definition of a "birthing center" unless they choose to and are qualified to designate a portion or part of the hospital as a birthing center, and nothing herein shall be construed as referring to the usual service provided the pregnant female in the obstetricgynecology service of an acute care hospital. Such facility or center, as heretofore stated, shall include the offices of physicians in private practice alone or in groups of two (2) or more; 4 and such facility or center rendering service to pregnant female persons, as stated heretofore and by the rules and regulations promulgated by the licensing agency in furtherance thereof, shall be deemed to be a "birthing center" whether using a similar or different name. Such center of facility if in any manner is deemed to be or considered to be operated or owned by a hospital or a hospital holding leasing or management company, for profit or not for profit, is required to comply with all birthing center standards governing a "hospital affiliated" birthing center as adopted by the licensing authority.
3. Hospital Affiliated Birthing Center. "Hospital affiliated" birthing center shall mean a separate and distinct unit of a hospital or a building owned, leased, rented or utilized by a hospital and located in the same county as the hospital for the purpose of providing the service of a "birthing center". Such center or facility is not required to be licensed separately and may operate under the license issued to the hospital if it is in compliance with Section 41-91-1 et seq., where applicable, and the rules and regulations promulgated by the licensing agency in furtherance thereof.
 4. "Freestanding" Birthing Center. "Freestanding" birthing center shall mean a separate and distinct facility or center or a separate and distinct organized unit of a hospital or other defined persons [Section 41.7.173(q)] for the purpose of performing the service of a "birthing center". Such facility or center must be separately licensed and must comply with all licensing standards promulgated by the licensing agency by virtue of this act. Further, such facility or center must be a separate, identifiable entity and must be physically, administratively and financially independent from other operations of any hospital or other health care facility or service and shall maintain a separate and required staff, including administrative staff. Further, any "birthing center" licensed as a "freestanding" center shall not become a component of any hospital or other health care facility without securing a "certificate of need"

5. Hospitals. Hospitals are excluded from the definition of a "birthing center" unless they choose to and are qualified to designate a portion or part of the hospital as a birthing center, and nothing herein shall be construed as referring to the usually service provided the pregnant female in the obstetric-gynecology service of an acute care hospital. Such facility or center, as heretofore stated, shall include the offices of physicians in private practice alone or in groups of two (2) or more; and such facility or center rendering service to pregnant female persons, as stated heretofore and by the rules and regulations promulgated by the licensing agency in furtherance thereof, shall be deemed to be a "birthing center" whether using a similar or different name. Such center or facility if in any manner is deemed to be or considered to be operated or owned by a hospital or a hospital holding leasing or management company, for profit or not for profit, is required to comply with all birthing center standards governing a "hospital affiliated" birthing center as adopted by the licensing authority

http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/110.pdf

Missouri

(B) Birthing center—A facility, not licensed as part of a hospital, which provides maternity care away from the mother’s usual residence and where low risk births are planned to occur following a normal uncomplicated pregnancy;

<http://s1.sos.mo.gov/cmsimages/adrules/csr/current/19csr/19c30-30.pdf>

Montana

Not defined

<http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/ruleno.asp?RN=37.106.1014>

Nebraska

A Freestanding Birth Center means a health facility- 1. That is not a hospital; 2. Where childbirth is planned to occur away from the pregnant woman’s residence; 3. That is licensed or otherwise approved by the State to provide prenatal labor and delivery or postpartum care and other ambulatory services; and 4. That complies with such other requirements relating to the health and safety of individuals furnished services by the facility as the State shall establish.

http://www.sos.ne.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health_and_Human_Services_System/Title-471/Chapter-42.pdf

Nevada

“Obstetric center” means a facility that is not part of a hospital and provides services for normal, uncomplicated births.

<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-449.html#NRS449Sec0155>

New Hampshire

“Birthing center” means a facility that is not located in a licensed acute care hospital, and which provides prenatal care through postnatal care, and which instructs and assists women in natural childbirth.

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oos/bhfa/documents/he-p810.pdf>

New Jersey

“Birth center” means a health care facility or a distinct part of a health care facility which provides routine prenatal and intrapartum care to low-risk maternity patients who are expected to delivery neonates of a weight greater than 2,499 grams and of 36 weeks gestational age and who require a stay of less than 24 hours after birth. “Routine intrapartum care” means labor and delivery services not requiring surgical intervention.

http://www.njaasc.org/aws/NJAASC/asset_manager/get_file/103579

New Mexico

Birth center” (BC) means a freestanding birth center licensed by the state for the primary purpose of performing low-risk deliveries that is not a hospital, attached to a hospital or in a hospital, and where births are planned to occur away from the mother’s residence following a low-risk pregnancy.

<http://164.64.110.239/nmac/parts/title07/07.010.0002.htm>

New York

A birth center is a diagnostic and treatment center organized to provide care to low-risk patients during pregnancy, labor and delivery who require a stay of less than 24 hours after birth. Services are provided by a physician or licensed midwife to women during a normal and an uncomplicated pregnancy, labor, birth and puerperium. Birth center services are based on a philosophy that promotes a family-centered approach to care and views pregnancy and delivery as a normal physiological process requiring limited technological and pharmacological support. The center services are designed to meet the specific needs of the population being served and promote optimum pregnancy outcomes. The licensed midwife or physician provides care for the low-risk woman during pregnancy and stays with her during labor from the time of admission to the birth center through the immediate postpartum period providing continuous physical and emotional support, evaluating progress, facilitating family interaction and assisting the woman in labor and delivery. Nurse practitioners may provide prenatal and post partum care to birthing center patients. They may also provide supportive care during labor and delivery, but the attending provider for birth must be a physician or licensed midwife.

[https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I4ffd3901cd1711dda432a117e6e0f345?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)&bhc_p=1](https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I4ffd3901cd1711dda432a117e6e0f345?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)&bhc_p=1)

North Carolina

A freestanding birthing center is a facility which is not a part of a hospital and provides comprehensive obstetrical care to women in which births are planned to occur away from the mother's usual residence following a normal, uncomplicated low risk pregnancy.

North Carolina Medicaid Bulletin – No. 12 – December 1994

North Dakota

No regs

Ohio

"Freestanding birthing center" or "center" means a facility, or part of a facility, which provides care during pregnancy, delivery, and the immediate postpartum period to the low-risk expectant mother.

"Freestanding birthing center" does not include a hospital registered under section [3701.07](#) of the Revised Code, or an entity that is reviewed as part of a hospital accreditation or certification program.

<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-83-33>

Oklahoma

"Birthing center" means a freestanding facility, place or institution, which is maintained or established primarily for the purpose of providing services of a certified midwife or licensed physician to assist or attend a woman in delivery and birth, and where a woman is scheduled in advance to give birth following a normal, uncomplicated, low-risk pregnancy.

https://www.ok.gov/health2/documents/MFS%20AC310-616_birthingcenters.pdf

Oregon

Free Standing Birth Center" ("Birthing Center" or "Center") means any health care facility (HCF), licensed for the primary purpose of performing low risk deliveries that is not a hospital, or in a hospital, and where births are planned to occur away from the mother's usual residence following normal, uncomplicated pregnancy.

http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_300/oar_333/333_076.html

Pennsylvania

Birth center—A facility not part of a hospital which provides maternity care to childbearing families not requiring hospitalization. A birth center provides a home-like atmosphere for maternity care, including prenatal labor delivery and postpartum care related to medically uncomplicated pregnancies.

<http://www.health.pa.gov/facilities/Registries/Home%20Care%20and%20Hospices/Documents/BirthCenter/Regulations.pdf>

Rhode Island

"Birth Center", hereinafter referred to as center, means any public or private establishment, place or facility, geographically distinct and separate from a hospital or the mother's residence, staffed, equipped and operated to provide services to low risk mother (as defined in section 1.8 herein, during pregnancy, labor, birth and puerperium.

A hospital birth center service, maintained and operated by a hospital on its licensed premises shall be subject to the standards for birth center services as set forth in the Rules and Regulations for the Licensing of Hospitals (R23-17-HOSP) and shall operate under the hospital license.

"Birth center service" means a distinct and identifiable unit in a hospital with an obstetrical service, staffed, equipped and operated to provide services to low risk mothers-to-be (as defined in section 40.2.1 herein), or mothers during pregnancy, labor, birth and puerperium.

http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/released/pdf/DOH/DOH_3496.pdf

South Carolina

Birth center means a facility or other place where human births are planned to occur. This does not include the usual residence of the mother or any facility which is licensed as a hospital.

<https://www.scdhec.gov/Agency/docs/health-regs/61-102.pdf>

South Dakota

"Birth center," any health care facility licensed under this article at which a woman is scheduled to give birth following a normal, uncomplicated pregnancy, but does not include a hospital or the residence of the woman giving birth;

<http://www.sdlegislature.gov/rules/DisplayRule.aspx?Rule=44:69&Type=All>

Tennessee

Birth Center. Any institution, facility, place or building devoted exclusively or primarily to the provision of routine delivery services and postpartum care for mothers and their newborn infants.

<http://share.tn.gov/sos/rules/1200/1200-08/1200-08-24.20161016.pdf>

Texas

"Birthing center" means a place, facility, or institution at which a woman is scheduled to give birth following a normal, uncomplicated pregnancy, but does not include a hospital or the residence of the woman giving birth.

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/HS/htm/HS.244.htm>

Utah

(b) "Birthing center" means a freestanding facility, receiving maternal patients and providing care during labor, delivery and immediately after delivery.

<http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r432/r432-550.htm#T4>

Vermont

No regs

Virginia

No regs

Washington

"Birthing center" or "childbirth center" means any health facility, not part of a hospital or in a hospital, that provides facilities and staff to support a birth service to low-risk maternity clients: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this chapter shall not apply to any hospital approved by the American College of Surgeons, American Osteopathic Association, or its successor.

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=18.46&full=true#18.46.010>

West Virginia

4.2. Birthing Center - A type of facility which is a building, house or the equivalent organized to provide facilities and staff to support a birthing service for pregnant clients. A birthing center should be an adaptation of a home environment to a short-stay ambulatory health care facility where low risk births are planned to occur away from the mother's usual residence following normal uncomplicated pregnancy.

3.2.1. A birthing service or center operated as a service within a hospital shall be licensed under hospital licensure regulations as promulgated under Chapter 16, Article 5B of the West Virginia Code of 1931, as amended.

<http://apps.sos.wv.gov/adlaw/csr/readfile.aspx?DocId=8484&Format=PDF>

Wisconsin

No regs

Wyoming

Birthing Center - any health facility, place, professional office or institution which is not a hospital or in a hospital and where births are planned to occur away from the mother's residence following normal uncomplicated pregnancy

<http://soswy.state.wy.us/Rules/RULES/4809.pdf>