Board of Nursing



State of Ohio Certified Doula - Frequently Asked Questions

What is a State of Ohio Certified Doula?
A Doula is defined by the State of Ohio as a trained, non-medical professional who advocates for, and provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to, a pregnant woman through the delivery of a child and immediately after the delivery, including during the antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum birthing periods. A State of Ohio Certified Doula has registered with the Ohio Board of Nursing and can receive Medicaid payments for services rendered.

What is a Certified Doula?
A certified doula is the same as a State of Ohio Certified Doula, except they have not registered with the Ohio Board of Nursing. They have received the same doula organization training but are ineligible for Medicaid payments.

Is there a difference between a State of Ohio Certified Doula and a Certified Doula?
No, except for the ability to be eligible for and accept Medicaid payments.

Can State of Ohio Certified Doulas and Certified Doulas both perform duties in a healthcare facility or hospital?
Yes, however, a health system controls access to their birthing suites and delivery rooms. Both State of Ohio Doulas and Certified Doulas must adhere to a healthcare facility's rules and policies.

How often do Doulas need to recertify?
State of Ohio Certification is every 2 years with a requirement of ten contact hours of Continuing Education. The ten hours must contain at least four hours training on racial bias, health disparities, and cultural competency. The remaining six hours should relate to other topics relevant to the doula's practice.

How long does it take to become certified?
The time to complete a doula certification can vary depending on the organization and individual pace but typically takes a few months to a year.

What is the typical training process for becoming a State of Ohio Certified Doula/Certified Doula?
Most certification programs involve a combination of classroom instruction, online learning, and hands-on practice with births, leading to a final exam.

What are some Doula Certification organizations?
Some well-known organizations include DONA International (Doulas of North America), the International Doula Institute (IDI), and the Childbirth Education Association (CEA). Some Ohio options include Welcome to Nurture, Birthing Beautiful Communities, and Maternity Wise.