

STATEMENT ON UNASSISTED CHILDBIRTH

Unassisted childbirth refers to a woman's choice to birth without a trained health care provider present at birth.

The CMM respects a woman's right to informed choice, right to decide place of birth, and acknowledges women's individual needs, values and dignity. Central to midwifery care is the obligation to act in such a way as to promote and safeguard the well being of clients. From a harm-reduction perspective, the CMM supports midwives, as primary health care providers, to decide whether they will provide prenatal and postpartum care to clients choosing an unassisted childbirth.

The CMM strongly believes that the safest care can be provided at birth when there are two qualified persons present. Qualified persons may include midwives, doctors, nurses or other health professionals who are skilled in maternal and neonatal emergencies.

References

1. College of Midwives of Manitoba, 'Explained Scope of Practice', 76. Two Attendants at Each Birth', 2001.
2. College of Midwives of Manitoba 'Philosophy of Midwifery Care', April 1995.
3. College of Midwives of Manitoba 'Code of Ethics for Midwives in Manitoba', 1995.