

THE PREGNANT WOMAN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

*Original sourced from Homebirth Australia.
Edited by Clodia Porteous for the Homebirth Network SA.*

1. The pregnant woman has the right to choose her place of birth.
2. The pregnant woman has the right to choose her birth practitioner and to be fully informed of her practitioner's qualifications and experience.
3. The pregnant woman has the right to choose who will be present at her birth and the right to refuse entry or to ask anyone to leave her place of birth.
4. The pregnant woman has the right of access to literature and information about birth.
5. The pregnant woman has the right to know her practitioner's methods and techniques of birth.
6. The pregnant woman has the right to know the approximate costs which will be incurred under her practitioner's care.
7. The pregnant woman has the right to expect that any information she gives her practitioner will be confidential and not divulged to anyone else without her permission.
8. The pregnant woman has the right to comprehensive antenatal care including access to standard tests and procedures related to the well-being of mother and child.
9. The pregnant woman has the right, prior to the administration of any drug, medication, procedure or test, to be informed by her practitioner of any direct or indirect effects, risks or hazards to herself or her unborn or newborn baby.
10. The pregnant woman has the right to determine for herself whether she will accept the risks inherent in a proposed therapy, drug, test or procedure.
11. The pregnant woman has the right to choose how she gives birth and to be treated with dignity and consideration at all times so that she feels free to follow her instinctive reactions during birth.
12. The pregnant woman has the right to ancillary medical support when needed.
13. The pregnant woman has the right to be treated with respect and courtesy at all times, and to be accompanied by her chosen birth practitioner and support persons of her choice.
14. The pregnant woman has the right to not be separated from her baby except for valid medical reasons.
15. The pregnant woman has the right to comprehensive postnatal care including support for the establishment of breast-feeding, assessment and care of her newborn baby, and information about relevant screening tests and registration of birth.
16. The pregnant woman has the right to be informed if there is any known or indicated aspect of her or her baby's care or condition which may cause her or her baby later problems.
17. The pregnant woman has the right of access to her and her baby's records and to receive a copy of her notes when desired.
18. The pregnant woman has the right, in the event of an unexpected outcome to her pregnancy or birth, to receive all the additional support and services that she needs.
19. The pregnant woman has the right to complain and to receive satisfaction from her practitioner.
20. As the pregnant woman has rights, so she also has responsibilities.