

Advanced Standing & Equivalency Application

Application Fee: \$500 (all tracks) | Payment plans available — contact connect@birthpro.org

BirthPro recognizes that many experienced birth workers come to this work through community practice, adjacent training, or organizations not currently approved by state Medicaid programs. This pathway allows qualified individuals to demonstrate competency and earn BirthPro certification through documented experience, prior training, and mentor evaluation, aligned with our values of equity, integrity, and scope-appropriate care.

What you receive with Advanced Standing certification:

- ✓ BirthPro certificate for your track (CBD, CPPD, or CFSD)
- ✓ BirthPro credentials to use after your name
- ✓ Access to BirthPro's graduate mentoring community
- ✓ Ongoing access to BirthPro resources and continuing education
- ✓ Listing in the BirthPro Birth Worker Directory (optional)

Fee Policy: Application fees are non-refundable. However, if BirthPro determines that Advanced Standing certification is not the right fit for your background, your full application fee will be applied as a credit toward any BirthPro training program. **You will never lose your investment.**

Minimum Standards for Approval

All applicants must meet the minimum standards for their pathway before certification will be issued. Meeting minimum standards does not guarantee approval. BirthPro reserves the right to request additional documentation at any time.

Pathway A: Prior Training Equivalency

- ✓ Minimum 20 documented training hours from a recognized program
- ✓ At least 10 client births or postpartum visits since completing training, documented via self-reported log with signed attestation
- ✓ Syllabus, curriculum, or program website reviewed and assessed against BirthPro competency areas
- ✓ Any identified gaps must be completed through BirthPro's curriculum library before cert is issued
- ✓ Two professional references submitted and contacted by BirthPro
- ✓ Mandatory review call with BirthPro director before approval

Pathway B: Experienced Practice

- ✓ Minimum 3 years of active practice as a birth or postpartum worker
- ✓ Minimum 25 client births or postpartum visits, documented via self-reported log with signed attestation
- ✓ Two professional references from care team members (midwife, nurse, OB, or senior doula colleague)
- ✓ Completed reflective portfolio reviewed against BirthPro competency rubric
- ✓ Specific BirthPro modules may be required based on gap assessment
- ✓ Mandatory review call with BirthPro director before approval

Step 1 — Select Your Pathway

Pathway A: Prior Training Equivalency

For birth workers certified through a training organization not currently approved by your state Medicaid or insurance program.

I am applying under Pathway A

Pathway B: Experienced Practice

For long-practicing birth workers with substantial documented experience but no formal certification from a recognized training organization.

I am applying under Pathway B

Step 2 — Applicant Information

Full Legal Name:

Preferred Name:

Pronouns:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

State of Practice:

Website or Social Media (optional):

City:

Zip Code:

Which BirthPro certification track are you applying for? (circle one)

- Certified Birth Doula (CBD)
- Certified Postpartum Doula (CPPD)
- Certified Full Spectrum Doula (CFSD)

Step 3A — Prior Training Equivalency (Pathway A Only)

Skip this section if you selected Pathway B.

Name of Training Organization:

Year Completed:

Certification Received:

Training Documentation

Please submit at least one of the following. We understand that not all training organizations provide formal syllabi. Submit whatever you have. (circle all that apply)

- Certificate of Completion
- Training syllabus or curriculum overview
- Program website URL with curriculum details (list below)
- Other documentation of training content (handouts, course outline, reading list, etc.)

Program website URL (if applicable):

If your training organization no longer exists or documentation is unavailable, contact us before applying: connect@birthpro.org

Pathway A requires at least 10 client births or postpartum visits since completing your training. Please complete the client log below, listing date, type of support, and setting for each. You will sign and attest to its accuracy in Step 7. BirthPro may request additional verification at its discretion.

Approximate number of clients supported:

Years since completing training:

Client Log (list at least 10 entries; attach additional pages if needed):

Date	Type of Support	Setting (hospital / birth center / home / other)

I attest that the information above is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Competency Self-Assessment

For each area below, briefly describe your training or experience. Attach additional pages if needed.

Labor support skills and comfort measures:

Informed consent and birth preferences:

Scope of practice and professional boundaries:

Communication with the medical care team:

Any gaps you are aware of in your training:

- Home birth
- Cesarean birth support
- Postpartum home visits
- Bereavement / loss support
- High-risk or complex pregnancy support
- Other (describe below)

Describe any other types of birth or postpartum work not listed above:

Reflective Portfolio

Please respond to the following questions. Write from your own experience. There are no wrong answers. Your portfolio will be reviewed against BirthPro's competency rubric as part of your evaluation.

How do you describe your role and scope of practice to clients and care teams?

Describe a challenging situation you navigated as a birth worker. What did you do, and what did you learn?

How do you approach supporting a client whose birth experience differs significantly from their plan?

What areas of your practice do you most want to strengthen through BirthPro's curriculum?

Note: BirthPro maintains an extensive curriculum library available to all Advanced Standing applicants. If your gap assessment reveals areas for growth, you will be given access to targeted modules at no additional cost before certification is issued.

Step 4 — Professional References

Two professional references are required. References must be able to speak directly to your practice as a birth or postpartum worker. Pathway B applicants: at least one reference must be a care team member (midwife, nurse, OB, or senior doula colleague). BirthPro will contact references directly.

Reference One

Reference Name:

Relationship to You:

Years Known:

Email:

Phone:

What would you like your reference to speak to specifically?

Reference Two

Reference Name:

Relationship to You:

Years Known:

Email:

Phone:

What would you like your reference to speak to specifically?

Step 5 — Payment

Application Fee: \$500 (all tracks)

Your fee includes portfolio review, curriculum gap assessment, reference outreach, mentor coordination, and lifetime access to BirthPro's graduate mentoring community.

Fee Policy: Application fees are non-refundable. However, if BirthPro determines that Advanced Standing certification is not the right fit for your background, your full application fee will be applied as a credit toward any BirthPro training program. **You will never lose your investment.**

Payment is collected at the time of scheduling your review call. If you need a payment plan, contact connect@birthpro.org before scheduling. Your application will be reviewed upon receipt of first payment.

Step 6 — Schedule Your Review Call

All applicants are required to complete a review call with BirthPro's director before certification is issued. This call is included in your application fee and is part of your evaluation. You will be contacted to schedule after your application is received.

You may also schedule your call in advance at:
koalendar.com/e/advanced-standing-application-consultation

Step 7 — Attestation & Submission

By signing below, I confirm that all information provided in this application is accurate and complete, including my client log. I understand that misrepresentation of my training or experience may result in denial or revocation of certification. I agree to abide by BirthPro's Code of Conduct and scope-appropriate practice standards.

Signature:

Date:

Submit your completed application + attachments to:

connect@birthpro.org

Subject line: Advanced Standing Application — [Your Name] — [Track]

You will receive a confirmation within 3 to 5 business days. Review typically takes 2 to 3 weeks.