

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "FREESTANDING BIRTHING CENTER" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HOME OR FACILITY THAT:

(1) IS SEPARATE FROM A HOSPITAL;

(2) IS SEPARATE FROM THE MOTHER'S RESIDENCE; AND

(3) DIRECTLY OR THROUGH A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT, PROVIDES NURSE MIDWIFERY SERVICES OR NORMAL MATERNITY SERVICES DELIVERED BY A PHYSICIAN.

(C) "LICENSE" MEANS A LICENSE ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY TO OPERATE A FREESTANDING BIRTHING CENTER.

(D) "NURSE MIDWIFE SERVICES" MEANS THOSE SERVICES PERMITTED TO BE PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUALS LICENSED TO PRACTICE NURSE MIDWIFERY UNDER TITLE 7, SUBTITLE 6 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

19-1002.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE IS TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF WOMEN AND NEWBORNS BY PROVIDING FOR THE LICENSING AND REGULATION OF FREESTANDING BIRTHING CENTERS.

19-1003.

(A) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL FACULTY OF MARYLAND AND ITS COMMITTEE ON MATERNAL WELFARE AND THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE MIDWIVES, THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) (1) THE RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL INCLUDE PROVISIONS THAT:

(I) PERTAIN TO THE LICENSING AND REGULATION OF FREESTANDING BIRTHING CENTERS;

(II) GOVERN THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY A FREESTANDING BIRTHING CENTER; AND

(III) ESTABLISH DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR FREESTANDING BIRTHING CENTERS.

19-1004.

(A) THE DIRECTOR OF A FREESTANDING BIRTHING CENTER SHALL BE A LICENSED NURSE MIDWIFE ~~7-AS-PROVIDED-BY-TITLE-77-SUBTITLE-6--OF~~ OR PHYSICIAN AS DEFINED UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.