

Midwives Alliance of West Virginia Peer Review Procedures

Peer review is a formal process by which complaints or concerns about a midwife's performance and management are evaluated by her peers. All peer review proceedings and records are confidential within MAWV.

MAWV members can request peer review at any time. Requests for peer review may also be made by consumers, non MAWV midwives, and other health professionals. Requests for peer reviews should be made no later than six (6) months after the situations in question. Exceptions may be considered.

A minimum of three MAWV members must be present for a peer review to take place. MAWV members who can participate in peer review evaluation include full voting members, affiliate midwife members, and retired/ inactive midwives. Student members of MAWV are welcome to attend peer reviews for educational and professional experience.

MAWV recommends that peer reviews be conducted in person. However, in urgent cases where one or more participants cannot be present in person, an interim peer review can be held via conference call, videoconferencing ,etc. If all participants agree that the Interim review was sufficient, no further proceedings are needed; however, if this is not the case, any of the participants can request a follow up peer review where all participants participate in person.

A peer review form must be filled out and signed by all participants for every peer review conducted. Forms should be sent to MAWV's Accountability Committee, which is responsible for keeping records and making sure that summaries of all peer reviews are reported at the next MAWV quarterly meeting.

All MAWV peer reviews must end in one (or more) of the following evaluations:

- 1. The midwife acted appropriately.*
- 2. The midwife made a mistake. She is aware of it and no further action is needed.*
- 3. The midwife exercised judgment based on insufficient knowledge. She will be asked to demonstrate mastery of that area of knowledge, with specific suggestions to be determined in each case.*
- 4. The midwife exercised questionable judgment. She is requested to undergo a probationary period with specific criteria to be determined in each case.*
- 5. The midwife has chosen to practice outside MAWV's philosophy, standards and/or guidelines. MAWV will no longer support the midwife's practice.*