



Illinois Department of Corrections

Administrative Directive

Number: 05.12.125	Title: Birth Support Person	Effective: 5/1/2021
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Authorized by:	<i>[Original Authorized Copy on File]</i>	Rob Jeffreys Acting Director
Supersedes:	05.12.125 effective 2/1/2020	

Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-2-2 730 ILCS 5/3-2-5.5	Related ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6A-10
Referenced Policies: 05.03.124	Referenced Forms: DOC 0026 – Information Packet for Escorts DOC 0286 – Offender Request DOC 0554 – Birth Support Person Vote Sheet DOC 0555 – Birth Support Person Application DOC 0556 – Birth Support Person Agreement DOC 0557 – Notification of Request for Birth Support Person

I. POLICY

The Department shall allow one person to support a pregnant offender during labor and delivery. The emphasis of this gender-responsive, trauma-informed and family-centered program is to facilitate family ties by strengthening the bond between extended family and the newborn.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish standard procedural guidelines for permitting pregnant offenders in the Women and Family Services Division to have a birthing support person present during labor and delivery of their child.

B. Applicability

This directive is applicable to all facilities within the Department authorized to house female offenders.

C. Facility Reviews

A facility review of this directive shall be conducted at least annually.

D. Designees

Individuals specified in this directive may delegate stated responsibilities to another person or persons unless otherwise directed.

E. Definitions

Active labor – for purposes of this directive shall mean uterine contractions that bring about demonstrable effacement and dilation of the cervix as determined by medical staff.

Approved Child Care Provider – A person approved by the mother to take custody of the infant once discharged from the hospital.

	Illinois Department of Corrections Administrative Directive	Page 2 of 3
Number: 05.12.125	Title: Birthing Support Person	Effective: 5/1/2021

Birthing Support Person (BSP) – An approved visitor, who has previously passed a LEADS background check, and selected by the pregnant offender to be present during the labor and delivery of the child.

F. Procedures

1. To have a Birthing Support Person (BSP) present at the time of delivery, a pregnant offender shall submit an Offender Request, DOC 0286, to the Placement Coordinator 45 days prior to the expected date of delivery. However, exceptions may be granted on a case by case basis with approval from the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).
2. The BSP shall only be considered if he or she is on the offender's approved visiting list.
3. Upon receipt of the DOC 0286, the Placement Coordinator shall initiate the Request for Birthing Support Person Vote Sheet, DOC 0554. Criteria to be considered prior to granting approval shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Current offense;
 - b. Criminal history;
 - c. Security level;
 - d. Escape Level;
 - e. Disciplinary history;
 - f. Orders of protection;
 - g. Mental health concerns; and
 - h. Health care concerns.
4. Once the CAO has approved or denied the DOC 0554 for the offender to have a BSP, the offender shall be notified in writing. If approved, the BSP Placement Coordinator shall mail the approved BSP the Birthing Support Person packet that shall include:
 - a. The Notification of Request for Birthing Support Person, DOC 0557;
 - b. The Birthing Support Person Application, DOC 0555; and
 - c. The Birthing Support Person Agreement, DOC 0556.
5. Within 14 days of receipt, the BSP must return the completed DOC 0555 with a copy of his or her valid Driver's License or State ID and a signed DOC 0556 acknowledging he or she has read and understands all program rules.
6. The contact information for the approved BSP shall be forwarded to the Shift Supervisor and facility Health Care Unit.
7. The facility's Health Care Unit shall notify the BSP when the offender goes into active labor or is in route to the hospital for a scheduled delivery.
8. Transporting offenders on medical writs shall be in accordance with Administrative Directive 05.03.124. The BSP contact information shall be included in the Information Packet for Escorts, DOC 0026, for identification purposes at the hospital.

	Illinois Department of Corrections Administrative Directive	Page 3 of 3
Number: 05.12.125	Title: Birthing Support Person	Effective: 5/1/2021

9. Staff assigned to pregnant offenders during labor and delivery shall receive the rules and procedures for BSP attendance.
 10. During labor and delivery, when a BSP is present, a female officer shall be stationed inside the delivery room and follow all hospital requirements.
 11. Standard security and search procedures shall be conducted before the BSP is permitted to enter or reenter the hospital room. Refusal to be searched shall result in immediate removal from the labor and delivery floor and loss of privileges as a BSP.
 12. Termination of the BSP's attendance may occur at any time at the order of the facility staff, hospital or at the request of the offender.
 13. Cell phones, cameras, video or audio taping devices shall be prohibited in the delivery room.
 14. Once the offender has given birth, the BSP may remain with the offender for up to one hour. If the baby is delivered before the BSP arrives, the BSP may be granted one hour of family bonding time at the discretion of the CAO.
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