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**MIDWIFERY PRACTICE ACT OF 1981**Fact SheetWhat will certified midwives do?

They will manage normal pregnancy, childbirth, and newborn care as defined by protocols set by the examining committee. They are prohibited from using forceps or vacuum extraction, or performing caesareans.

What is the composition of the examining committee?

*Four midwives, one obstetrician, one hospital administrator and one public member appointed by the Governor.

*One family practitioner and one public member appointed by the Senate.

*One pediatrician and one public member appointed by the Assembly.

TOTAL: 4 midwives, 3 doctors, 3 public members, 1 hospital administrator.

What will the midwife's relationship be with doctors?

*Any abnormalities must be referred to a doctor.

*A midwife must submit with application for licensure a written working agreement with a doctor covering:

- (a) communication procedures
- (b) hospital referral and transportation
- (c) back-up for complications
- (d) mechanism for dispensing of medications to the midwife

*The bill states that a doctor will incur no additional liability in working with a midwife.

What will the midwife's relationship be with hospitals?

The facility permitting, the midwife would have authority to admit and practice within the facility. Discrimination against midwives as a class would be prohibited. Licensing of the facility would not be affected solely by admitting a midwife to staff privileges.