NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The New Mexico Health Care Authority Division of Health Improvement is finalizing amendments to 8.370.17 NMAC Requirements for Freestanding Birth Centers filed on 6/13/2024 and effective on 7/01/2024 amending: Section 7 reformatting the definitions into the current style, Section 12, adding a new Subsection F, and Section 25 adding a new Subsection Q.

This regulation amendment applies to freestanding birth centers. This rule requires that all freestanding birth centers adopt and maintain written policies and procedures authorizing a patient to select a doula of the patient's choice to accompany the patient within the facility's premises for the purposes of providing services during pregnancy, childbirth and the twelve-month postpartum period and establishes the patient's right to have a doula. The proposed rule may be viewed at the Division of Health Improvement website at https://www.hca.nm.gov/dhi-regulations/.

A public hearing to receive testimony on this proposed rule will be held on January 26th, 2026, 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada) The public hearing will be a Hybrid, via Zoom as well as in person, pursuant to Section 14-4-5.6 NMSA 1978.
Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar!
When: January 26th, 2026, 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)
Topic: HCA Division of Health Improvement Public Hearing - New Rules 8.321.13 & 8.370.17

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86175123521?pwd=NDpSPAVDbBUQal2SqYq6hymRXD4YKj.1
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Webinar ID: 861 7512 3521
Passcode: 698886
International numbers available: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kysxUcskN

All written comment may be dropped off during the scheduled hearing time (see above) at the Division of Health Improvement offices, at the Hozho conference room #109, 5300 Homestead Rd. NE, Albuquerque NM 87110.

Individuals wishing to testify may contact the Division of Health Improvement (DHI), P.O. Box H, Santa Fe, NM 87504, or by calling (505) 476-9093.

Individuals who do not wish to attend the hearing may submit written or recorded comments. Written or recorded comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on January 26th, 2026. Please send comments to: Division of Health Improvement P.O. Box H Santa Fe, NM 87504, Recorded comments may be left at (505) 476-9093. You may send comments electronically to HCA-DHI-Public-Comment@hca.nm.gov

Written and recorded comments will be posted to the agency's website within 3 days of receipt. All comments will be given the same consideration as oral testimony made at the public hearing.

If you are a person with a disability and you require this information in an alternative format, or you require a special accommodation to participate in any HSD public hearing, program, or service, please contact the American Disabilities Act Coordinator, at Office-505-709-5468, Fax-505-827-6286 or through the New Mexico Relay system, toll free at #711. The Department requests at least a 10-day advance notice to provide requested alternative formats and special accommodations.