

REQUIREMENTS FOR DONA INTERNATIONAL BIRTH DOULA RECERTIFICATION

Alternatives to Continuing Education for Recertification

DONA International is committed to making recertification as available and affordable as possible. The following alternatives for all or part of the continuing education contact hour requirements are approved.

A total of **fifteen (15) contact hours** are required for recertification as a birth doula. It is acceptable to combine alternative contact hours with formal contact hours from recognized organizations that provide contact hours for maternal/child health professionals. Each alternative option has been assigned a maximum number of available contact hours, which means that there is a limit to the number of contact hours that may be earned for any given activity.

Recertifying doulas accumulating alternative contact hours with any of the following options for Alternatives to Continuing Education must complete the appropriate verification form for each individual activity. Read the instructions thoroughly and complete each verification form accurately for each individual activity, attaching any supporting documentation required and acquiring any necessary signatures.

Use Form A, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, for the following alternative options:

A-1: Give a thirty (30) minute (minimum) presentation about doulas/labor support to a hospital, birth center, parents' group or doula group.

- One (1) alternative contact hour per presentation for a maximum of three (3) contact hours
- Documentation required
 - **Form A**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula
 - Title, length and detailed outline of the presentation
 - Typewritten document stating the number of attendees
 - All evaluations of the presentation turned in by the attendees. The recertifying doula is responsible for preparing the evaluation form for the presentation, which must state:
 - Date, time, length and location of the presentation
 - Name of the recertifying doula who is presenting

- Title of the presentation
- Objectives for the presentation

A-2: Conduct an independent study of a book or article packet (consisting of five (5) research-based articles concerning one topic) from medical and/or nursing journals pertaining to the childbearing year or parenting.

- One (1) alternative contact hour per book or article packet for a maximum of five (5) contact hours
- Documentation required
 - **Form A**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula
 - Title of book (including author, publisher, date of publication and number of pages) or title of the five (5) articles (including authors, journal names, dates of publication and number of pages)
 - Typewritten 300-500 word synopsis of information contained in the book or article packet describing how the information obtained will impact your practice as a birth doula

A-3: Write, submit and have published a *feature story* in the *International Doula* or other recognized childbearing publication. The comparative or research article should include relevant references and a bibliography.

- Two (2) alternative contact hours per article for a maximum of eight (8) contact hours
- Documentation required
 - **Form A**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula
 - Photocopy of the published article with the recertifying doula's by-line

A-4: Listen to a DONA International annual conference recording of a general session purchased from DONA International or the recording contractor. Only general sessions (not concurrent sessions) recorded during your current three (3) year certification period qualify. The order form code "GS" indicates a general session.

- One (1) alternative contact hour per recording for a maximum of six (6) contact hours
- Documentation required
 - **Form A**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula
 - Typewritten 500-600 word synopsis of each general session recording describing how the information obtained will impact your practice as a birth doula

A-5: Observe an educational film or documentary related to the childbearing year or one specifically designed for birth or postpartum doulas produced by an organization on DONA International's approved list or by another recognized organization in the field of birth or parenting.

- One (1) alternative contact hour per one (1) hour film or documentary OR two (2) or more films or documentaries that total at least one (1) hour in length for a maximum of five (5) contact hours
- Documentation required

- **Form A**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula
- Title of film or documentary, producer, length of feature, date watched
- Typewritten 300-400 word summary of film or documentary describing how the information obtained is applicable to your practice as a birth doula

A-6: Complete an independent comparative self-study of two (2) books having diverse approaches, philosophies or methods on one (1) topic related to the childbearing year or early parenting.

- Two (2) alternative contact hours per comparative study for a maximum of six (6) contact hours
- Documentation required
 - **Form A**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula
 - Typewritten 500-600 word comparative study describing the similarities and differences in approach of each book and how the information obtained is applicable to your practice as a birth doula

A-7: Personal experience of adding an infant to your family by birth or adoption (six (6) months old or younger) during your current three (3) year certification period.

Describe the lessons learned during your experience of *one or more* of the following topics:

- a) Pregnancy and childbirth OR adoption of an infant six (6) months old or younger
 - b) Breastfeeding an infant born to you OR inducing lactation for an adopted infant
 - c) The early postpartum period consisting of the three (3) months following birth or adoption (the *fourth trimester*).
- Two (2) alternative contact hours for each chosen topic a), b) or c) listed above for a maximum of six (6) contact hours
 - Documentation required
 - **Form A**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula
 - A separate typewritten 300-500 word account of each chosen topic a), b) or c) and how the lessons learned by adding an infant to your family are applicable to your practice as a birth doula
 - Include all of the following points:
 - An overview of your experience
 - Any challenges you faced
 - Resources utilized
 - Lessons learned that will impact your own work as a birth doula
 - Typewritten statement listing the following information:
 - Date of infant's birth or date of adoption placement, as applicable
 - Birth weight and length
 - APGAR scores at one and five minutes
 - Infant health concerns or time spent in the neonatal intensive care unit

- Breastfeeding and/or pumping details, including frequency, patterns and supplementation, as well as whether you had previous breastfeeding experience
- Whether you had a birth and/or postpartum doula and the length of time and number of hours of any postpartum doula support
- Additional family details, such as the number of siblings, their ages and a list of other household family members

A-8: Research, develop, write and submit curriculum for an original continuing education program and have it approved for contact hours by DONA International.

The intent of this continuing education alternative is for the recertifying birth doula to develop her knowledge of a topic relevant to her own birth doula practice, add to her knowledge base and develop a way to share that information with other doulas and perinatal health professionals.

- Three (3) alternative contact hours per one (1) approved contact hour of presentation time for a maximum of twelve (12) contact hours for this activity
- Documentation required
 - **Form A**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula
 - Copy of curriculum approval notification from DONA International
 - Title, objectives, program number, date of approval, number of approved contact hours and name(s) of instructor(s) approved to present this program
 - Typewritten statement signed by the recertifying doula confirming either
 - *“I researched and developed this original program by myself and plan to teach it by myself. No one else may claim this original program development for continuing education.” –OR–*
 - *“I researched and developed this original program jointly with _____ and we plan to teach this program together. We both may claim this program development independently for recertification.”*

Use Form B, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, for the following alternative options:

B-1: Attend an organized educational event for perinatal professionals not offering formal contact hours or not sponsored by a recognized organization. Examples of programs that would qualify are hospital in-services, presentations for birth or postpartum professionals given at a childbirth educator or doula group meeting or presentations at a DONA International state/provincial/area meeting, as well as other professionally sponsored events.

- One (1) alternative contact hour per one (1) hour of presentation time for a maximum of five (5) contact hours
- Documentation required
 - **Form B**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula AND the instructor or administrator of the educational event
 - Copy of the Certificate of Attendance, if available

B-2 Observe a midwife, physician, lactation consultant or another DONA certified birth doula working with clients for a minimum of four (4) hours. This means that you should have no other responsibilities during the time of observation, but you are fully and exclusively focused on the professional you are observing. *The observed professional may be contacted to confirm this experience.*

- Four (4) hours of observation = one (1) alternative contact hour for a maximum of four (4) contact hours
- Documentation required
 - **Form B**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula AND by the observed midwife, physician, lactation consultant or doula
 - Typewritten statement including the following information:
 - Total number of hours observed during the specified time period and on which date(s)
 - Observed professional's name, title, mailing address, e-mail address and phone number
 - Typewritten account indicating at least three (3) items you learned from this observation and how the experience will impact your practice as a birth doula

B-3: Serve as a preceptor for a doula-in-training. A preceptor is a certified doula who arranges for an uncertified birth doula-in-training to shadow her at the labor and birth of the preceptor's client. A doula-in-training is a doula who has attended a birth doula workshop and is actively working towards certification. *The birth doula-in-training may be contacted for verification of the experience.*

- Five (5) alternative contact hours per doula-in-training per birth for a maximum of ten (10) contact hours
- Documentation required
 - **Form B**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula AND by the birth doula-in-training
 - Typewritten statement including the following information:
 - Doula-in-training's name, mailing address, e-mail address and phone number
 - Date and location of the workshop the doula-in-training attended and the name of the DONA approved birth doula trainer
 - Date(s), location, arrival and departure times and the time and date of the birth that the doula-in-training shadowed
 - Typewritten account indicating at least three (3) items you demonstrated, taught or discussed at this birth for the benefit of the birth doula-in-training

B-4: Attend a support group or meeting relating to the childbearing year or parenting. Examples of support groups or meetings that would qualify include La Leche League, ICAN, bereaved parents, postpartum support groups or parents of multiples. The group or meeting should be selected to enhance the birth doula's education and effectiveness and must be led by someone other than the recertifying doula.

- One (1) alternative contact hour per support group or meeting for a maximum of five (5) contact hours
- Documentation required

- **Form B**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula AND by the group leader/facilitator/moderator
- Typewritten statement indicating the number of people in attendance, the topic covered and the date and length of the meeting
- Typewritten statement (50-100 words) explaining how attending this meeting or support group will impact your practice as a birth doula

B-5: Attend another entire DONA approved birth doula workshop, *taught by a trainer other than your original trainer and other than a trainer whose workshop you may have previously attended for alternative continuing education*; OR attend an entire DONA approved postpartum doula workshop. *The trainer may be contacted for verification.*

- Fifteen (15) alternative contact hours per workshop attended in its entirety (partial credit will not be granted)
- Documentation required
 - **Form B**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula AND by the DONA approved birth or postpartum doula trainer
 - Copy of the Certificate of Attendance signed by the trainer(s), which must indicate the dates and location of the workshop, as well as the recertifying doula's name
 - Typewritten statement indicating
 - Name(s) of the trainers
 - Dates and location of the workshop
 - Whether it was a DONA approved birth or postpartum doula workshop
 - Include a signed statement by the trainer(s), as follows:
 “I/We, [name(s) of trainer(s)], verify that [name of recertifying doula] attended the above-named doula workshop in its entirety and that this recertifying doula has not previously attended a birth doula workshop taught by me/us.”
 - If attending another birth doula workshop, provide the name(s) of your original trainer(s) and the dates and location of the original workshop

B-6: Lead and facilitate a support group relating to the perinatal period or a meeting for doulas and other perinatal professionals. Examples of support groups or meetings that would qualify include La Leche League, ICAN, bereaved parents, postpartum mood disorder, parents of multiples or related support groups or meetings for parents; or meetings for doulas and/or other perinatal professionals. The support group or meeting should include the presentation of a prepared topic (minimum 20 minutes) followed by a group discussion, both facilitated by the recertifying doula.

- One (1) alternative contact hour per meeting (minimum of one hour) for a maximum of five (5) contact hours
- Documentation required
 - **Form B**, Verification of Alternative Contact Hours, signed by the recertifying doula AND by a participant of the support group or meeting. *The participant may be contacted to verify information.*
 - Typewritten statement indicating the following:

- Name or type of support group or meeting
- Date, time, length and location of the support group or meeting
- Topic presented and objectives
- Number of people in attendance
- Typewritten statement (100-300 words) explaining how preparing and presenting this topic and facilitating the discussion that followed will enhance your birth doula practice