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Birth Doula Cross Certification Requirements

1. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. Hold a high school diploma, GED equivalency, or higher education.
3. Complete a professional birth doula training program through another organization that meets the following criteria:
 - ✓ Training organization must have a website.
 - ✓ Formal training must be completed within the last ten years.
 - ✓ Minimum length of 16 hours is required.
 - ✓ Minimum of 3 hours of training in breastfeeding basics and support skills is required.
 - ✓ Training may consist of an in-person or live online workshop, self-paced online study, or a combination of these.
 - ✓ Proof must be provided in the form of certificates of completion or attendance that include the name of the organization, specific training taken, and dates completed.
 - ✓ Your certificate(s) should be scanned and saved as a jpg or png file and uploaded with your application.
4. If you still need to complete the breastfeeding requirement, Lifespan Doulas offers a self-paced online [Breastfeeding Basics for Doulas](#) class for \$100 that fulfills this requirement.
5. Complete the required reading:
 - ✓ *The Birth Partner, 5th Edition*, by Penny Simkin
 - ✓ *Natural Hospital Birth*, 2nd Edition, by Cynthia Gabriel
 - ✓ [The Doula Business Guide, 4th Edition](#), by Patty Brennan
6. Pass the comprehensive Birth Doula online certification exam with a score of 85% or higher. Access to the exam will be given within 24 hours of paying the certification application fee. Look for an email from **Thinkific** to access the exam. The exam is an open-book, self-paced exam; you can save your progress as you go and complete the test in multiple sessions if desired. You can take the exam as many times as necessary to achieve a passing grade.
7. Agree to abide by the Lifespan [Doula Scope of Practice](#).

8. [Complete and submit the online Birth Doula Cross Certification Application.](#)
9. **Turn-around:** Provided all requirements have been met, we will email your certificate within two weeks. If there are problems with your application that require checking and emails back-and-forth, this timeline may be extended. *We are unable to respond to requests for a status update before two weeks have passed since submitting your application.*

Thank you for pursuing certification as a Birth Doula with Lifespan Doulas. We are here to support you in this process. Thank you for your service in support of families during the childbearing year.

Patty Brennan