

To whom it may concern

I am very concerned that hiring a homebirth midwife may be made impossible next year due to legislation being put forward.

Below is an edited version of a topic I posted on an online message board recently. You can read the replies from other women, who similarly fear for their psychological health if they are unable to access homebirth midwifery in the future, here

<http://members.essentialbaby.com.au/index.php?showtopic=696993>

It is my understanding, & I could well be wrong about this, that women can choose an elective caesarean for non-medical reasons in the public system if there are psychological reasons, e.g. anxiety about natural birth.

So I got to thinking about how anxious the thought of not being able to have a homebirth midwife makes me. It reminds a bit of the movie Vera Drake where the rich woman is able to buy a legal abortion because she tells a psychologist that otherwise she will kill herself.

If relocating to an area or country where I could have a homebirth wasn't an option then, because I wouldn't choose to freebirth (I can't bear the thought of the guilt if something went drastically wrong), I simply wouldn't get pregnant. If I got pregnant accidentally???? This is what scares me, how could I have an abortion when I would absolutely LOVE to have another baby?

Now I know most people would just think I'm crazy, that I would put my desire to have a homebirth above everything like that. Well, I guess that is my point. Maybe I am crazy. Just like some people would think that a woman who chooses an elective caesarean for no medical reason (with all the risks associated with that) is crazy.

To me my feelings seem perfectly logical & rational. I birthed at hospital & it seemed so wrong in so many ways, I birthed at home & not only was it so right in so many ways, it was a spiritual experience. To go to hospital after that (unless there was a complication) to me is like the equiviliant of a Christian being forced to deny the existence of God. It would be going against the truth of the most profound experience of my life. Violating something so sacred.

Yeah, I sound pretty nuts! :) So let me get a referral from a GP or a psychologist or an OB or midwife or whoever saying I need to have a homebirth for psychological reasons. Make it hard for me if you have to. Just let me have the option somehow.

Kind regards,
Heidi Hodder