

# Licensing ≠ Safety: Why Regulating CPMs May Harm the Public

## What is the Purpose of Licensing and Regulation?

Licensure exists to:

- Protect public safety
- Ensure consistent education and training
- Hold providers accountable through oversight
- Provide clarity and transparency to consumers

Licensing is a **public trust tool**. It tells the public “*this person is qualified.*”

## The Risk of Licensing CPMs

### ✗ Creates a False Sense of Safety

- **Licensed = Qualified** in the public eye.
- Licensing CPMs gives the appearance that they meet the same standards as other health professionals, but they don't.
- This misleads consumers.

### ✗ CPMs Do Not Meet Educational Standards

- The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) sets global education and training standards.
- Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) meet these standards through graduate-level training and AMCB certification.
- Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) **do not** since many train via unaccredited or apprenticeship-only routes.
- Many CPMs have no hospital experience, no pharmacology training, and no experience managing emergencies.
- States that license CPMs often cannot enforce uniform safety standards.

### ✗ Creates Confusion

- The public may not understand the difference between a CPM and a CNM - especially once both are licensed.
- This **confuses informed consent** and undermines the transparency that licensure is meant to provide.

## Bottom Line

Licensing should **protect the public**, not **endorse** providers with inadequate education.

Licensing CPMs risks giving a stamp of approval to a profession that has not met the minimum safety standards our public deserves.