

CPMs Got Licensed Throughout the United States by Promising Higher Standards - But Never Delivered

What Was the Agreement?

In 2013, major midwifery groups began working together as part of US MERA which included an agreement that Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) would meet global educational standards for midwives.

- They agreed that **by 2020**, newly licensed CPMs would need to complete a **nationally accredited midwifery education program**.
- This was meant to help CPMs meet International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) standards, which are followed even in low-resource countries, including many in Africa.
- Unlike most countries, the U.S. wasn't even forcing CPMs to obtain a bachelor's degree- as ANY accredited educational program seemed better than where we were at.

How Did CPMs Benefit?

This agreement **legitimized** the CPM profession in the eyes of lawmakers and health care organizations.

- Other organizations like ACOG and ACNM began to support CPM licensure, trusting that national standards were on the way.
- From 2013 to 2021, **the number of states licensing CPMs increased by 28.57%** (from 28 to 36 states and the District of Columbia.)
- That's a huge gain in less than a decade, and it happened **because of the promises made under US MERA**.

What Happened in 2020?

Nothing.

- The CPM profession **did not implement the promised education standards**.
- The majority of CPMs are still being certified without completing an accredited program.

What's the Result?

- CPMs **do NOT meet** ICM standards.
- CPMs **do NOT meet** U.S. Department of Education standards.
- Major organizations like **ACNM** and **ACOG** have since **withdrawn support** for CPM licensure.
- Trust has been broken and progress stalled.

In Summary

CPMs gained legal recognition in dozens of states by promising to raise standards. When you ask why are CPMs licensed in so many states? **THIS IS A MAJOR REASON WHY.**

But the CPMs never followed through with the US MERA and now, they don't meet the standards they agreed to.