

To: The offices of Social Security and Birth registration,

It has come to the attention of the Medical Board of California (Board) that in some counties, parents receiving primary care from California Licensed Midwives (LMs) are experiencing difficulty having their applications accepted for newborn birth registration and social security number from Social Security Administration offices.

This letter is to inform you that licensed midwives are duly licensed maternity and newborn healthcare providers in the state of California. As such, they are required to provide verification of live birth, subsequent wellness of the infant and identity of parents for babies born out of the hospital with LMs.

LMs are licensed and regulated by the Board. LMs provide care to mother and baby throughout the childbearing cycle. Their scope of practice is from conception until the baby is two months old. LMs are not supervised by physicians. In addition, childbearing women, new mothers and newborns are not required to have physician and or hospital care during pregnancy, childbirth and newborn period.

This letter is intended to clarify that the information provided by an LM in California is sufficient for birth verification and procurement of social security numbers for babies. No extra information from pediatricians or other agencies are necessary. If you have any questions please contact [NAME] at (email address/phone #).

Midwife licensee status and scope of practice can be verified at the medical board of California website at https://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Midwives/Midwives_Practice_Act.aspx.

Sincerely,

Medical Board of California