

Pregnant Patient Bill of Rights

<https://www.legalmatch.com/law-library/article/pregnant-patient-bill-of-rights.html>

To help identify an appropriate level of care and delineate what a pregnant patient should expect, this pregnant patient's bill of rights can provide some general guidance.

A pregnant patient has the right to expect:

- Information about the potential direct and indirect effects, risks, hazards to the mother and/or unborn child because of a drug or specific procedure administered
- Explanation of the benefits, risks and alternatives to treatment
- Disclosure that an administered drug may affect the unborn child
- In cases of cesarean delivery, instruction that minimal use of non-essential pre-operative medication is beneficial
- Disclosure of the unknowns and uncertainties with regard to the effect of a drug or procedure on the physical, mental, and/or neurological development of a child
- Identification of both the brand and generic names of all drugs administered
- Right to select, without pressure, patient's preferred procedure
- Identification of name and qualifications of all individuals administering medical procedure
- Disclosure of whether drug or procedure is beneficial or merely elective
- Presence of a loved-one for support during the procedure
- Right to choose labor position, with appropriate medical consultation
- Right to have baby cared for at bedside unless there are complications
- Identification in writing of the delivering physician
- Disclosure of any aspect of care that may lead to later difficulties
- Complete, accurate and legible records maintained by the hospital until the newborn's age of maturity or sent to patient before records are destroyed
- Right to access records with a reasonable fee, without an attorney.
- Injuries that occur as a result of a failure to meet any of these rights can be grounds for medical malpractice.