



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Int 1209-2018, **Version:** \*

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Int. No. 1209

By Council Members Rosenthal, Ampry-Samuel, Cornegy, Ayala, Yeger, Lander and Gennaro

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to permitting pregnant incarcerated individuals in department of correction custody to utilize doula and midwife services in the delivery room

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1 Chapter 1 of title 9 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 9-156 to read as follows:

§ 9-156 Doula and Midwife Access in Delivery Rooms. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Doula. The term “doula” means a trained person who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to a pregnant person and the family before, during or shortly after childbirth, for the purpose of assisting a pregnant person through the birth experience; or a trained person who supports the family of a newborn during the first days and weeks after childbirth, providing evidence-based information, practical help, and advice to the family on newborn care, self-care, and nurturing of the new family unit.

Midwife. The term “midwife” means means an individual who is licensed or certified to practice midwifery in New York state.

b. All pregnant incarcerated individuals, in labor and in the custody of the department, upon request, shall be permitted to utilize doula or midwife services and care in the delivery room, unless so permitting would substantially impact the safety or security of such individual, in which case such doula or midwife service and care shall be permitted at the point such safety or security risk has abated. The department shall

submit to the speaker of the council on or before August 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, a report in a machine-readable format providing an explanation for cases where the department has determined that it is not possible or practicable to permit doula or midwife services and care in the delivery room.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

RQ / BM  
LS # 7811; 5:35pm  
10/26/2018 12:30 p.m.