



Alabama Chapter

19 S. Jackson Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334/954-2543
Toll-Free: 866/293-4783
Fax: 334/269-5200
E-mail: llee@alaap.org
<http://www.alaap.org>

Position Statement on Home Births in Alabama ♦ February 2014

While home births have certainly increased in popularity, the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics asserts that the safest place for birth is in a hospital under the care of licensed health professionals.

In Alabama, we have laws governing seat belt use for adults and car seat laws for children. These are not for the overwhelming majority of car rides that are routine and low risk, but for the safety of those citizens when a routine outing becomes a dangerous accident. We don't expect people to be able to put a seatbelt on at the last second to save them. We use the seatbelt every time, so that it is there when needed. We do this to keep ourselves and our children safe.

Officers

President

Michael J. Ramsey, MD, FAAP
126 Clinic Drive
Dothan, AL 36303
334/793-1881
Fax: 334/712-1815
mj_ramsey@msn.com

Vice President

Catherine L. Wood, MD, FAAP
8160 Seaton Place
Montgomery, AL 36116
334/272-1799
Fax: 334/272-4876
cdocwood@aol.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Andrew W. Stubblefield, MD, FAAP
421 W College Street
Florence, AL 35630
256/764-9522
Fax: 256/764-1139
stubblefield.wes@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Grant R. Allen, MD, FAAP
421 W College Street
Florence, AL 35630
256/764-9522
Fax: 256/764-1139
allen_grant@hotmail.com

Executive Director

Linda P. Lee, APR

Truly, having a home birth has an appeal - being in familiar surroundings, doing it "the old fashioned way." And thankfully, most deliveries, whether at home or in the hospital, go well without complications. During the snow storm on January 28 of this year, a baby was successfully delivered on the interstate with only the father and a state trooper present. It is easy to become complacent of the potential risks present in even a routine delivery. Every delivery is routine, until it is not.

Obstetricians (OBs) have a four-year residency following four years of medical school to learn the skills necessary to help women during pregnancy and deliveries. Nurse midwives go through nursing school and nurse practitioner training to work in collaboration with an OB to do the same. Pediatricians complete three years of residency following four years of medical school to learn how to resuscitate a newborn. This extensive training is not for the majority of "low-risk pregnancies"...it is to step in when the "low-risk pregnancy" suddenly and unexpectedly becomes life-threatening to mother and baby.

Delivering in the hospital with medical supervision provides the seatbelt for when things go wrong. With the Alabama infant mortality rate increasing 10 percent last year to 8.9 per 1,000 births, why would we begin to offer our children anything but the safest place to begin their life?