

NEW YORK CITY STANDARDS FOR

RESPECTFUL CARE at BIRTH



You have a human right to respectful, safe and quality care during your birthing experience.



EDUCATION

You deserve to ask for and receive simple information that you can easily understand about your health care, health care provider and birthing experience options.



DECISION-MAKING

You deserve to decide what happens with your body and to make decisions for your baby.



SUPPORT

You deserve to receive support during pregnancy, labor and childbirth, as well as after childbirth.



INFORMED CONSENT

You deserve to know and make your own decisions about all of your medical procedures. This is called “informed consent” and is a legal right.



QUALITY OF CARE

You deserve the highest-quality health care.



DIGNITY AND NONDISCRIMINATION

You deserve to be treated with dignity and respect during pregnancy, labor and childbirth, as well as after childbirth – no matter what.

These standards were created to inform, educate and support people giving birth – people like you.

These standards encourage you to know your human rights and be active decision-makers in your birthing experience.



For more information, search for **SRJ** at nyc.gov/health.

If you believe you have been mistreated or denied care or services because of your gender, your pregnancy or any other protected category under the New York City Human Rights Law, call 311 or 718-722-3131 to file a complaint with the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

This document was informed by community gatherings and created by the New York City Health Department’s Sexual and Reproductive Justice Community Engagement Group (SRJ CEG).

As part of a commitment to sexual and reproductive justice, SRJ CEG works to promote birth justice. **Birth justice** exists when everyone has the freedom and support to make decisions about pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum with dignity. This includes access to high-quality, culturally responsive care, freedom to choose where and with whom to give birth, and the ability to accept or decline medical interventions.