

Requirements for Certification

Applicants for DONA certification must purchase a DONA Certification Packet (\$35.00) and complete the application, which documents the following:

1. Membership in Doulas of North America (DONA).
2. Read books from the required reading list.
3. Completion of one of the following:
 - Training in childbirth education or midwifery.
 - Nurse's training with work experience in labor and delivery
 - Attend a childbirth education series (not as an expectant parent. Must be a minimum of 12 hours) or a DONA-approved equivalent introductory doula course.
4. Attended a DONA-approved labor support (doula) training workshop of sixteen or more hours.
5. Experience providing labor support to at least three clients.
 - The births that you submit must occur after attending a DONA approved Labor Support workshop and after a certification packet is purchased.
 - Labor support **must begin before or at the onset of the active phase of labor**. For certification purposes, active labor will be considered 4 centimeters.
 - For certification purposes, the three births combined must have the doula present for a minimum of 15 hours, total.
 - The doula who is applying for certification must submit births in which her presence was continuous.
 - The doula **must** remain for the birth of the baby to provide immediate postpartum support.
 - Every vaginal exam must be documented on the Birth Record Sheet's "Labor Progression Chart."
 - Cesarean births may account for only one of the three required birth experiences. If an elective/scheduled Cesarean birth is attended, you must document:
 - ✓ prenatal contact
 - ✓ your presence at the birth
 - ✓ immediate postpartum support
 - ✓ postpartum contact
6. Copies of good evaluations (*Evaluation of Labor Support Services*) from
 - three clients, **plus**
 - three primary care providers (physicians or midwives), **and**
 - for each physician evaluation a nurse's evaluation must be submitted.
7. Copies of doula's records from all three births, including:
 - Birth Record Sheets*
 - A typewritten 300-500 word account of each of the three births—A) description of labor; B) mother's reaction; C) what the doula did; and D) what the doula learned from the experience.
8. Complete the Basic Knowledge Self-Assessment Tool.
9. A type-written essay on the value and purpose of labor support (500-1000 words).
10. Signature on the *DONA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*.
11. Payment of \$60.00 for certification processing fee.