



Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1979

1979 CHAPTER 36

Miscellaneous provisions about midwifery

17 Attendance by unqualified persons at childbirth

- (1) A person other than a registered midwife or a registered medical practitioner shall not attend a woman in childbirth.
- (2) Until the day appointed by the Secretary of State by an order under paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 4 to the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, a man who is a registered midwife shall not attend a woman in childbirth except in a place approved in writing by or on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply—
 - (a) where the attention is given in a case of sudden or urgent necessity; or
 - (b) in the case of a person who, while undergoing training with a view to becoming a medical practitioner or to becoming a midwife, attends a woman in childbirth as part of a course of practical instruction in midwifery recognised by the General Medical Council or one of the National Boards.
- (4) A person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than £500.