

Family Trees Birth Programs

## Family Trees Doula School



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### **The Family Trees Doula School believes all doulas should:**

- ❖ Foster the childbearing experience as a normal, natural, and healthy process.
- ❖ Support women and their families to discover and to use strategies that facilitate normal, natural, and healthy birth.
- ❖ Help women and their families to understand that choices and decisions are rights of the mother and how those choices and decisions may affect the normal progression of labor and birth.
- ❖ Provide each family with non-judgmental, evidence based information and support.
- ❖ Assist women and their families in making informed decisions for their healthcare.
- ❖ Respect each individual woman's experience as one that will deeply affect the rest of her life.

### **How Do I Become a Doula?**

There are several pathways to become a doula: self-training, online/distance courses, and live seminars. Like any other profession, especially one that will have a profound impact on a family's life, making an investment into your education is a wise decision.

Family Trees Doula School requires that students complete pre-requisite work from a required reading and documentary list while attending Doula School. Attending a Family Trees Doula School live seminar will prepare you to serve childbearing families in your community. At the conclusion of Doula School, students will complete a series of informational handouts, contracts, registration forms and other paperwork necessary for a doula practice.

Family Trees Doula School also offers ongoing webinars for continued learning and growth of your doula career.

### **Family Trees Doula School Program**

Family Trees Program Director, Wendy Trees Shiffer is first and foremost the mother of four fabulous children. After a 15 year career in education she decided to follow her calling to work with childbearing women. She completed her birth doula certification with DONA International in 2009 and began working as a doula in Lancaster County. In 2011 she earned her certification as a Lamaze instructor through Duke University's AHEC

program, and was a presenter at the 2011 Lamaze International Conference. Wendy was inducted as a Fellow of the Academy of Certified Childbirth Educators in 2015. She completed a Master's of Science degree focusing on women's healthcare, midwifery & health education. She is currently pursuing a PhD in maternal-fetal health. Over the years, Wendy has embraced continuing education and became certified in numerous other areas to better support mothers and babies.

For more information or to register for the program, please visit [www.familytreesdoulaschool.com](http://www.familytreesdoulaschool.com)

## **The Seminar**

There will be additional work to complete before attending the seminar. For all students attending the seminar, Wendy will be available to answer any questions during the training process.

**Doula School Fees:** \$500 (online learning) & \$400 (hands-on seminar)

Fee includes the semester instruction and support during your educational process and beyond. Students are also required to purchase books and documentaries from the required reading & viewing list (which are a nominal cost). Please purchase the latest edition book(s) in hard or paperback rather than e-book version.

## **Payment options**

Payment in full is expected at the time of registration. Participants will be emailed an invoice through Square (please check your spam folder if you do not receive it). For those wishing to pay by check, please contact Wendy ([wendy@familytreesbirthplace.com](mailto:wendy@familytreesbirthplace.com))

If you need to make alternative financial arrangements, a payment plan may be granted. Payment plans are non-refundable and must be paid in full by prior to the seminar. This is firm, and not negotiable due to the limited number of students we can take per semester.

## **Seminar Requirements**

- Complete the seminar registration form.
- Pay registration fee.
- Purchase books and documentaries from the required list.
  - This can be done at any time, and on your own budgeting timeline.
- Complete all required reading and documentary list prior to seminar.
- Completion of the entire program is required for those wanting to earn certification.

## **Successful Completion of the Program**

After the seminar, students are required to complete additional requirements to be completed within one year:

- Interview two women who have given birth and write a summary about the experience as it relates to the Lamaze 6 Healthy Birth Practices.
  - Students will learn about the 6 Healthy Birth Practices during class
- Create evidence-based informational sheets, contract, and registration forms.
- Submit to Wendy for review.

## **Additional Online Training**

Family Trees Doula School will offer regular webinars for students who would like to continue with their doula education for a nominal fee. These sessions are a great way to connect with other doulas as well as ask questions from your professional peers.

## **Continuing Education & Recertification Policy**

Students who are certified through Family Trees Birth Programs Doula School are expected to maintain certification through professional growth. Doulas must re-certify every three years. Doulas must attain 25 CEUs through approved agencies such as DONA, CAPPA, ICEA, AWHONN, or Lamaze. A \$50 re-certification fee is due at the time of recertification. Certifications expire on December 31 of the third certification year. For example, a doula who certifies on June 1, 2017 will be due to re-certify by December 31, 2020.

## **Cancellation/Refund/Transfer Policy**

All cancellations/refunds/transfer requests must be done in writing.

Cancellations made 30 days prior to seminar will be refunded all but \$100, or have the option to apply the entire fee to a future seminar.

No refunds will be given with less than 30 days written notice, but you may apply the seminar fee towards the registration fee for a future seminar.

If an alternate is able to take your place, we will refund your fee. Please do not rely on this option as there is no guarantee an alternate will come forward at the last minute.

## **Grievance and Appeal Policy**

Family Trees is committed to providing a high quality program and learning environment to assist those wishing to become a doula in achieving their goals. All complaints are acknowledged, reviewed and addressed. Family Trees values

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participant satisfaction and will work to achieve a prompt and fair resolution of all complaints. The participant will be required to submit to Family Trees a written request of resolution including information about the concern and any supporting facts or documentation. The Program Director will review the grievance and ensure these are addressed to the mutual acceptance of all involved. However if the candidate is still dissatisfied and wants to file a further appeal to the decision, a panel will be assembled including both program Director. The person bringing the grievance can request a representative on the panel as well. Background will be shared and resolution sought. Family Trees and the candidate will accept the recommendations of this panel.

### **Contact Information:**

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