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## Maternity Care Agreement

The goal of obstetrics is that every pregnancy be wanted and culminate in a healthy mother and a healthy baby. Advances in medicine have reduced some of the risks in injury and death, but especially in obstetrics there is no guarantee of a successful outcome. Your baby may suffer serious problems at birth because of natural processes and complications that are beyond your control, the control of your physician, and the control of the hospital where you plan your delivery.

During your pregnancy, your doctor/midwife may recommend limitations on your activities, refer you to other physicians, recommend hospitalization, perform random drug screen tests, or other medical treatment/procedures. You should discuss with your doctor/midwife any proposed treatment and other alternatives available to you and make sure your questions are answered. It is your right and responsibility to share in all decisions about the care you receive. Our clinic supports medical research and participates with various outside studies. Your information may be shared with medical personnel who in turn may contact you. However, you are not obligated to take part in such studies and may choose to decline participation.

Unexpected complications can occur during pregnancy or labor which may require prompt delivery of your baby. Drugs are available to stimulate labor. Instruments such as forceps or vacuums may be used and delivery by cesarean section may be recommended. Each of the procedures involves substantial risks. Should an emergency arise, the availability of hospital anesthesia and surgery personnel may affect how quickly your baby can be delivered. In the hospital where your delivery is planned, anesthesia and surgery personnel are available at all hours. The hospital has demonstrated the capability of an emergency delivery in most cases within 30 minutes after notification of personnel, but may not always be able to do so.

I understand that while a limited office ultrasound is useful in determining fetal gestational age, it is not intended to detect all birth defects and detectable birth defects can be and are missed. It will also measure the amniotic fluid volume and placenta location. It may or may not detect heart, kidney, spine, or other abnormalities. It cannot detect mental disabilities. I understand that the use of ultrasound during pregnancy is not associated with a higher risk of birth defects but that the normal risk of birth defects is about 5% of all births.

By signing this document, you acknowledge that there are substantial and significant risks to both the mother and child in the childbirth process and that there can be no guarantees of a successful outcome.

Patient's Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_