**WAC 246-835-010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Birth doula" or "doula" mean a state-certified birth doula under this chapter.

(2) "Culturally congruent care" means a duty to learn respect for and uphold a client’s cultural practices around birth, regardless of the doula’s own cultural identity. Culturally congruent care includes a birth doula’s duty to use community resources and networks to help families access other doulas from the same background, religion, culture, and community as them.

(3) "Department" means the department of health.

(4) "Postpartum" means the 12-month period beginning on the last day of pregnancy.

(5) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.47 RCW and 2022 c 217. WSR 23-18-048, § 246-835-010, filed 8/30/23, effective 10/1/23.]

**WAC 246-835-025 Culturally congruent care or culturally congruent ancestral practices, training, and education.** (1) To apply for a birth doula certification, an applicant shall be required to demonstrate knowledge of culturally congruent care or culturally congruent ancestral practices, training, and education that upholds respect for clients’ cultural practices around birth and encourages access to doulas from the same background, religion, culture, and community as the client through community networks and referrals.

(2)Such training or experience may include, but is not limited to:

(a) Ancestral Pathway Only: Experience with ancestral practices such as, but not limited to, rebozo use, belly binding, placenta burial, placenta encapsulation, cord burning, lotus birth, development of intuition;

(b) History of obstetrics; such as erasure of granny midwives and indigenous birth work;

(c) Trauma-informed care;

(d) Social determinants of health;

(e) Adverse childhood experiences; or

(f) Other training and education that enhances the applicant's knowledge of culturally congruent care or culturally congruent ancestral practices, training, and education.

(3) Documentation of completion must include:

(a) An attestation that they have successfully completed a training or have experience (ancestral pathway only) in one of the categories in subsection(2) of this section; or

(b) A certificate of completion from a relevant training that lists the applicant's name.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.47 RCW and 2022 c 217. WSR 23-18-048, § 246-835-025, filed 8/30/23, effective 10/1/23.]