

Here is an informal list of some questions to consider on crafting an independent certification organization:

Who are our allies in this process?

Who provides critical feedback that assists us in shaping this process?

What do we want to keep in the way things have been done and what would we like to change?

What can we learn from other organizations who have pursued similar aims? (Such as CIMS and the mother-friendly hospital designation process.)

What are the components for other professions in their certification processes? What about ones that aren't in perinatal health care?

How much do they cost?

What about an ethical requirement? Ethical dilemmas are by their very nature complex and without easy answers. They require discussion and consultation with trusted others to sort out appropriate responses. How do other professions do this?

How is the history of birth doulas similar and different from that of midwifery?

If we're considering creating a system that would exclude some doulas, how can we remain inclusive and honor each doula's wisdom in our communities?

IBCLC's created their own certification process years ago. In order to solve their current challenges, they are proceeding to create state licensure. How is the history of our profession and the tasks of our profession similar to IBCLCs? Ho