



Re: Michele Fitzgerald

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a pediatrician in Austin, Texas and have worked for 27 years with local midwife groups. The midwife I have had the most contact with is Michele Fitzgerald and I am involved in a large number of their births, probably at least one weekly.

Michele Fitzgerald has impressed me in her skills as a midwife. Her knowledge of the physiology and medical management of pregnancy and childbirth are excellent. On numerous occasions she has called for medical opinions concerning her clients. Her questions show an excellent knowledge of risk factors and above all appropriate referral criteria for her high risk clients. She also has a great deal of expertise in the immediate and postpartum care of the newborn infant. She assesses the newborn skillfully and makes referral to my office when needed. Another very important qualification Michele has is her communication skills with local referral physicians. She has always been known for her back up systems in the event of a high risk situation. Obviously, if a problem does develop unexpectedly it is crucial that the patient can be transferred to a hospital with obstetrical and neonatal staff on standby. This has always been pre-arranged and available to her clients.

In addition to her clinical skills, Michele also has my respect as a loving and capable mother. I am the pediatrician that cared for her children, and I've seen her interaction with them. She believes in traditional medical care and respects the decisions of all the physicians in my group. She is of the utmost moral and personal character as well. In summary, I believe that Michele Fitzgerald is an asset to the community here in Austin. She provides a valuable and necessary service to those parents who wish a home delivery with the safety of a medical back up team in the rare event of a problem. If I can be of further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jerome J. Hudson, M.D., F.A.A.P.