

Back-Up Doula on Retainer Job Description

As an active childbirth instructor for [Great Starts Birth & Family Education](#), and Birth Doula Trainer for [Bastyr University](#), there will be times I am unavailable to attend my clients' births, typically on weekday evenings and all day on Saturdays and Sundays. During those times, I hire a back-up doula who is on retainer for me. Should my client be in labor during my teaching time, my back-up doula steps in for me. My clients always understand my back-up arrangement when they hire me as their doula.

How it Works:

I retain a back-up doula for \$25 per day to guarantee coverage during my teaching times: If I need my back-up doula to attend a birth while I'm teaching, the \$25 retainer covers the first hour and then I pay her \$25/hour after that. If my back-up covers me at a birth for 4 hours, she'll receive a total of \$100 (\$25.00 retainer fee + \$75.00). If I don't need her back-up services, she keeps the \$25 retainer fee.

How I Hire Back-Up Doulas on Retainer

I work with a pool of 2 – 3 doulas who generally have availability on weekends and weekday evenings and *are not* booking clients of their own. When I need to hire a back-up doula on retainer, I email my pool of back-ups with the dates and times I need coverage and some general information about the family. I choose the doula who can cover all my dates and will be a good match for the family I'm working with.

Back-Up Doula on Retainer FAQ

What is a back-up doula on retainer?

A back-up doula on retainer guarantees her back-up services for a period of time for a pre-paid retainer fee.

How is a back-up doula on retainer paid?

The \$25/day retainer fee is paid before the client's due date, at the time of hire. If a back-up doula attends my client's birth while I'm teaching, she is paid \$25/hour after the first hour. The \$25 covers the first hour of work.

When do you hire back-up doulas?

I hire back-up doulas whenever a client's due date falls within two weeks of one my classes.

What are the back-up doula's time commitments and obligations?

- Guarantee me your time on the specified date for the specified duration of time.
- Be available for an in-person or phone meeting with my clients, should they want to meet you.
- Review my client's birth plan and my prenatal notes and clarify any points with me at least 24 hours before your back-up period begins.
- Quick response to my or my clients' emails and phone calls.
- Practice strict confidentiality with my client's personal information and birth details. Please don't share or discuss any details about my client without their permission.