Criteria to Apply for Certification as a Birth Story Listener or Birth Story Specialist

Congratulations on completing our 14-week or 28-week birth story listening course and earning your CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION as a qualified birth story listener. Two additional levels of recognition are available: CERTIFIED BIRTH STORY LISTENER and CERTIFIED BIRTH STORY SPECIALIST. Please review the following information to learn more.

1. BIRTH STORY MEDICINE is a Registered Trademark.

Only certified individuals may use the "Birth Story Medicine®" brand name and logo on their website or social media. Graduates of our School may say they were "trained in the Birth Story Medicine® process," "completed a 14-week course," or use similar phrases.

2. Professional Membership

Annual membership dues are $77 USD for the first year on a pro rata basis, and $99 USD on July 1st per year thereafter. Your membership includes ongoing support, access to a library of recordings, articles, podcasts, a private Facebook group, monthly educational calls, and discounts on courses and seminars on special topics. Email Nicole to join nicole@birthstorymedicine.com

3. Certification Application Steps & Requirements

Step 1. Submit your application no later than six months after your graduation date

https://forms.gle/aRL3m8JxTQzac4V19

Step 2: Maintain active membership (see above for how to join)

Step 3: Pay $325 yearly until certified.

Step 4: A mentor will review two of your recordings each year until you are certified.

Step 5: Attend a combination of at least three live member Q & E calls or Pearl Deep Dive each year.

Step 6: We will list you on our website directory as a birth story listener or counselor.

Step 7: You are required to log your birth story sessions in our birth story log at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdkqzuhffJNt1dOdBxAVHMNhXcW6ixv1tfynyUt-NWJERnjEg/viewform

Step 8: Receipt of anonymous feedback forms from at least five of your clients

https://forms.gle/jpvVbm988L4fcBFE8

Step 9: Complete the process and earn certification within two years of taking your initial training.

4. Maintaining your Certification and Professional Development

a) The annual recertification fee is $200.

b) Renew your membership each year.

c) Your name and contact information will appear in our website directory as a Certified Birth Story Listener or Certified Birth Story Specialist.

d) To maintain certification, you must complete:

i. Complete a personal review and consultation for at least one recording each year.

ii. Participate in at least three live member or Pearl calls each year.

iii. Log a *minimum* of 12 sessions each year. However, we recommend to cultivate your expertise and in service of the birthing community, you strive for a minimum of 24 per year.

iv. Receipt of session feedback form from at least five anonymous clients.

5. IF YOU GRADUATED MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AGO *and are actively leading sessions*, follow these steps to apply:

Step 1. Submit the application form here https://forms.gle/MsBVEKaYqzDgz9qT7

Step 2. Schedule an interview with a facilitator to discuss special application criteria.

Step 3. Submit two birth story session recordings with a self-evaluation form. Choose one recording that you believe reflects your best work, and select another that you found particularly challenging. Sharing both examples will help you celebrate your strengths and recognize opportunities for growth.

6. IF YOU HAVE LAPSED IN LEADING BIRTH STORY SESSIONS, or you are actively leading sessions but want a refresher course before applying for certification, contact us to complete the 14- week course (discount applies). Email: nicole@birthstorymedicine.com

Two additional notes:

*In the 28-week Open Your Ear course, apprentices receive 14-weeks of extra mentorship, lead weekly sessions, obtain feedback, and complete additional didactic training. Upon fulfilling all requirements, graduates *may* earn Certification as Birth Story Specialists at graduation.

** If you enjoyed our 14-week course, and want more training, you may apply for the second 14-week semester in Open Your Ear. This advanced program offers intensive clinical practice, personal mentoring, and additional instruction in specialty areas, and will make you eligible to become a Birth Story Specialist. Contact Pam England at pam@birthstorymedicine.com for an application.

I understand that certification with Birth Story Medicine is an ongoing commitment. By submitting this application, I agree to fulfill all annual certification requirements, maintain an active BSM membership, and uphold the professional and ethical standards of this work each year.

Print Name

_____

Signature

_____

Date

_____

Email your signed and dated form to: admin@birthstorymedicine.com