

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910554225803321
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Titolo	Birthing a movement : midwives, law, and the politics of reproductive care // Renee Ann Cramer
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Stanford, California : , : Stanford University Press, , [2021] ©2021
ISBN	1-5036-1450-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (290 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	344.730415
Soggetti	Midwives - United States - History Social movements - United States Midwives - United States - Legal status, laws, etc Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- TABLE OF CONTENTS -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1 History and Status of Midwives in the United States -- 2 Modern and Professional -- 3 Mostly Happy Accidents -- 4 Rights, Rules, and Regulation -- 5 Catching Babies and Catching Hell -- 6 Deep Transformations, Deep Contradictions -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Rich, personal stories shed light on midwives at the frontier of women's reproductive rights. Midwives in the United States live and work in a complex regulatory environment that is a direct result of state and medical intervention into women's reproductive capacity. In <i>Birthing a Movement</i> , Renée Ann Cramer draws on over a decade of ethnographic and archival research to examine the interactions of law, politics, and activism surrounding midwifery care. Framed by gripping narratives from midwives across the country, she parses out the often-paradoxical priorities with which they must engage-seeking formal professionalization, advocating for reproductive justice, and resisting state-centered approaches. Currently, professional midwives are legal and regulated in their practice in 32 states and illegal in eight, where their practice could bring felony convictions and penalties that include

imprisonment. In the remaining ten states, Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) are unregulated, but nominally legal. By studying states where CPMs have differing legal statuses, Cramer makes the case that midwives and their clients engage in various forms of mobilization-at times simultaneous, and at times inconsistent-to facilitate access to care, autonomy in childbirth, and the articulation of women's authority in reproduction. This book brings together literatures not frequently in conversation with one another, on regulation, mobilization, health policy, and gender, offering a multifaceted view of the experiences and politics of American midwifery, and promising rich insights to a wide array of scholars, activists, healthcare professionals alike.

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