



# Midwifery Expert Witnesses

Bush & Co's midwifery experts have been selected for their unique and outstanding skills in supporting people from pregnancy to the postnatal period in a variety of different settings. Our network of associate expert witness midwives have shown through their clinical practice and post-graduate training to provide evidence-based, high quality, ethical care for childbearing women and their families.

Expert midwives may be instructed to undertake liability reports; providing an opinion on allegations surrounding breach of duty. Bush & Co midwifery experts are able to interpret CTG monitoring and are trained to be able to apply relevant legal tests including *Montgomery vs Lanarkshire Health Board (2015)*, *Chester vs Afshar (2004)*, *Bolitho vs Hackney Health Authority (1977)* and *Bolam vs Friern Hospital Management Committee (1957)*.

An expert witness midwife applies a helicopter view to determine the basic elements of who, what, where, and why; engaging a full risk assessment, study of medical records, case notes, and other relevant materials, and their own professional experience to confirm critical actions and timings to complete their report.

A thorough evaluation of the key criteria of quality, safety, and experience in relation to mother, baby, and all other relevant parties will help expose a clear picture of the level of care administered during labour and birth. Studying documentation will reveal answers to some fundamental questions and timings, such as results for cardiotocography (CTG) monitoring and Aggar testing, with accurate and complete notes helping to answer other basic questions such as factors present, complications during labour, actions taken or not taken, speed to respond and so on.

Bush & Co's midwifery experts understand that they may be required to give evidence in Court and they are trained to ensure that their expert opinions are clinically robust; ensuring relevant professional and NICE guidelines are included, as well as evidence-based research to support their expert opinion.

## Our associates

Our midwifery expert witnesses have experience in a wide range of injuries, conditions and complications arising from personal injury or clinical negligence in mothers and children.

- Foetal injuries acquired through the process of labour.
- Instrumental deliveries.
- Management of home, hospital and midwife-led unit deliveries.
- Perineal injuries.
- Shoulder dystocia.

## Our reports

- Full Quantum incl. wrongful birth where injury has occurred to the mother and/or child
- Short-Form Quantum
- Full Liability
- Short-Form Liability

## Get in touch

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## Abigail Luck | Midwife

Abigail is an experienced midwife and registered general nurse with over 20 years' experience in maternity investigations, labour, critical care, stillbirths, neonatal and maternal deaths, neonatal brain injuries and serious incidents. In addition, she has experience in nursing of gynaecology and uro-gynaecology and cancer care. Her clinical career has mostly been spent in the UK, and also in Canada and she has worked in clinical settings including Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and in investigation teams and teaching positions for Cranfield University and Baby Lifeline and the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch. She has also worked at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, University College London Hospital, St. George's Hospital, London, as well as in community midwifery and has been involved in the set-up of a midwifery-led birthing unit creating guidelines and policies and subsequently managing the established unit (The Carmen Suite).

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## Patricia Hill | Midwife

Patsy has experience in providing both short liability reports and full liability reports on maternity cases including third degree tears; wound dehiscence; sepsis and care during labour for both the claimant and defendant solicitors. Since 2013, Patsy has gained experience in the legal profession working on medical chronologies and the management of medical records in both obstetric/neonatal and general cases of alleged medical negligence. Since 2014 Patsy has reviewed at least 30 cerebral palsy cases and over 60 obstetric cases and has provided professional advice on breach of duty and causation. Her clinical career includes a number of senior midwifery roles, managing high risk, emergency cases and has a wealth of experience in practice development, clinical outcome reviews and scenario training.

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## Andrea Holton | Midwife

Andrea is both an experienced midwife, safeguarding practitioner and a vaccination nurse with over 20 year's clinical experience within the NHS at hospitals including Nottingham University Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital and in community settings working for North West Anglia NHS Trust and Bedford NHS Trust. She remains passionate and valued within the maternity and safeguarding arena. Andrea practices in all areas of maternity care and has special interests and experience in mental health, domestic abuse, learning disabilities, illicit drug and alcohol use, looked after children and teenage pregnancy. In her previous role she was the named midwife for safeguarding which further developed her expertise in working with the wider teams around family, preparing reports and contributing to court hearings particularly in conjunction with child protection plans and the potential removal of children to a place of safety.

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## Ann Walker | Midwife

Ann qualified as a midwife in 1988 and has over 30 years' experience working in NHS maternity services and within the community. She is particularly experienced in leading large maternity teams, developing services, clinical governance and patient safety. Ann is currently working on a clinical project focused on improving maternity services throughout the East of England; selected based on her extensive midwifery experience. Prior to this Ann was deputy head of midwifery and risk and governance lead for Norwich and Norfolk NHS Foundation Trust. She has experience of developing and leading large teams of midwives and transforming maternity services to achieve key national drivers for improvement, assurance and sustainability. Within these senior roles Ann also has experience of working with and the extensive knowledge of the responsibilities of midwives, maternity care assistants, obstetricians, anaesthetists and neonatologists.

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