

A LAW FOR REGULATING MIDWIFES WITHIN THE
CITY OF NEW YORK

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Assistants of the City of New York Convened in Common Council and it is hereby Ordained by the Authority of the same. That no Woman whatsoever within this [255] Corporation of the City of New York Shall be Capable of or in any manner whatsoever Use or Exercise the Office or Employ of A Midwife, within the said Corporation untill she shall before the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the said Corporation for the time being or any one of them take the Oath of A Midwife hereafter Mentioned which Oath they or any one of them have hereby Power to Administer in the Words following (Viz')

You shall swear, First that You shall be Diligent Midwif's Oath. and faithfull and Ready to help Every Woman labouring of Child as well the Poor as the Rich; and that in time of Nessesity You shall not forsake or leave the Poor Woman to go to the Rich.

ITEM You shall neither Cause nor suffer any Woman to Name or put any Other Father to the Child, but only him which is the very true Father thereof indeed, According to the utmost of Your Power

ITEM You shall not suffer any Woman to pretend, feign or surmize her self to be delivered of A Child, who is not indeed; neither to Claim any Other Womans Child for her Own.

ITEM You shall not suffer any Womans Child to be Murthered Maimed or Otherwise hurt; as much as You may; and so Often as you shall perceive any Peril or Jeopardy, Either in the Woman or in the Child, in any such wise as you shall be in doubt what shall Chance thereof, You shall thenceforth in due time send for Other Midwives and Expert Women in that faculty and use their Advice Counsel and assistance in that behalf.

ITEM You shall not give any Counsel, or Administer any Herb Medicine or Potion, or any Other thing to any Woman being with Child whereby she should destroy or Miscarry of that she goeth withal before her time.

ITEM You shall not Enforce any Woman being with Child, by any pain, or by any ungodly ways or means to give you any more for Your pains or Labour in bringing her A-bed than they would Otherwise do.

ITEM You shall not consent, agree, give or keep Counsel, that any Woman be delivered secretly of that she goeth with, but in the presence of two or three Witnesses ready.

ITEM You shall be secret and not Open any Mystery Appertaining to your Office in the presence of any Man, unless Nessesity or great Urgent Cause do Constrain You so to do.

ITEM if You shall know any Midwife Using or doing any thing Contrary to any of the Premisses or in any Other wise than shall be seemly or Convenient, You shall forthwith detect, and Openly shew the same to the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the City of New York for the time being or one of them.

ITEM You shall use Your self in honest Behaviour unto the Woman being lawfully Admitted to the Room and Office of A Midwife in all things Accordingly

ITEM if any Woman in labour under Your Care shall desire the Advice or Assistance of any Other Midwife or Midwives You shall Readily Consent to the same, and use their Advice, Counsel and Assistance in that behalf, if in Your Conscience you think it for the Benefit of such Woman in Labour.

ITEM You shall not Conceal the Birth of any Bastard Child within the [256] Corporation of the City of New York, but shall forthwith upon understanding thereof, give knowledge of the same to the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the City of New York for the time being or one of them or to the Alderman or Chief Magistrate of the Ward where such Bastard Child shall be born. all which Articles and Charge you shall faithfully Observe and keep SO HELP YOU GOD.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Authority Aforesaid that the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the City of New York for the time being or any one of them before whom such Oath shall be taken shall Certifie the taking of such Oath to the Mayors next Court there to be Recorded.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Authority Aforesaid that if any Woman within the said Corporation of the City of New York shall after the Publication hereof use, Occupy or Exercise the Office of A Midwife within the said Corporation of the City of New York before the Oath before Mentioned hath been duely Administred unto her by the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the said City of New York for the time being, or one of them, that then and in such Case such Woman
 so Using Occupying or Exercising the Office of
 Midwives Exercising A Midwife within the said Corporation of the
 that Office before City of New York for Every default shall forfeit
 taking the foregoing and pay the sum of Forty Shillings of lawfull
 Oath forfeit forty Money of the Province of New York to be Re-
 shillings covred before the Mayor Recorder and Alder-
 men of the said City of New York for the time
 being or any one of them by A summary proceeding, which Forfeiture
 shall be Levied by Distress and sale of the
 to be Levied by Distress. Goods and Chattells of such Offender
 against the Tenor of this Law, by Warrant
 under the hand and seal of the Said Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen of
 the City of New York for the time being or any one of them, and shall
 be disposed of in Manner following that is to say, One half of the said
 Forfeiture To the Treasurer of the City of New York for the time being
 for the use of the Corporation of the said City of New York, and the

Other half to the Person or Persons who shall sue for or prosecute the same. AND in Case such Offender for want of Distress the against the Tenor of this Law shall not Offender to be Committed have sufficient Goods and Chattells to be not Exceeding thirty days found within the said Corporation to Satisfie the said Forfeiture, then and in such case it shall and may be Lawfull for the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the said City of New York for the time being or any one of them by Warrant under hand and seal to Committ such Offender to the Common Gaol of the said City there to Remain without Bail or Mainprize for the Space of thirty Days after the date of such Warrant unless the said Forfeiture be in the mean time paid and Satisfied.