



# LAWS OF ALASKA

1996

**Source**  
CSSB 193(L&C)

**Chapter No.**  
49

## AN ACT

Requiring insurance coverage for certain costs of birth; and providing for an effective date.

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

**Approved by the Governor:** May 31, 1996  
**Actual Effective Date:** June 1, 1996

AN ACT

1 Requiring insurance coverage for certain costs of birth; and providing for an effective date.

2

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 21.42 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 Sec. 21.42.347. **COVERAGE FOR COSTS OF BIRTH.** (a) An insurer who  
5 provides coverage for the costs of childbirth shall also provide coverage for the costs  
6 of hospitalization or medical care following childbirth for a period of not less than

7 (1) 48 hours after a vaginal birth; and

8 (2) 96 hours after a caesarean birth.

9 (b) Except as otherwise required to provide coverage specified under (a) of this  
10 section, this section does not affect a payment arrangement entered into between a  
11 hospital or physician and an insurer.

12 (c) This section may not be construed to require hospitalization or medical care  
13 as described under (a)(1) or (2) of this section if the mother giving birth and the

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1 mother's health care provider agree that the mother and any newborn child of the  
2 mother should be discharged earlier than required under (a)(1) or (2) of this section.

3 (d) In this section,

4 (1) "health care provider" means a person licensed in this state to  
5 provide health care services;

6 (2) "insurer" includes

7 (A) an insurer, as defined in AS 21.90.900;

8 (B) a group health plan, as defined in 29 U.S.C. 1167(l)

9 (Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974);

10 (C) a health maintenance organization, as defined in  
11 AS 21.86.900;

12 (D) a hospital service corporation or medical service  
13 corporation, as defined in AS 21.87.330;

14 (E) a writing carrier, as defined in AS 21.55.500; and

15 (F) an entity offering a service benefit plan, as referred to in 42  
16 U.S.C. 1396g-1.

17 \* Sec. 2. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to a policy of insurance issued or renewed  
18 on or after the effective date of this Act.

19 \* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).