



September 14, 2009

Ms. Ami Schmitz
Health & Medicine Producer
The Today Show
30 Rockefeller Plz
New York, NY 10112

Dear Ms. Schmitz,

Lamaze International appreciates The Today Show's interest in raising awareness of important issues expectant families should consider when selecting their care provider and place of birth. However, the Sept. 11 segment "Perils of Home Births," portrays a tragic story of one couple's loss without regard to medical evidence or testimony.

Lamaze International believes that birth can safely take place in hospitals, birth centers and homes, and points to a growing body of evidence that supports the safety of out-of-hospital birth for low-risk women with qualified attendants and access to referral. Lamaze International also expresses concern about the routine and inappropriate use of interventions without supporting evidence that increasingly typifies hospital-based maternity care in the United States.

The Today Show is in a unique position to impact millions of women viewers and further enhance maternal and fetal safety by endorsing models of maternity care that will improve the birthing experience for women and their families without compromising safety.

Lamaze encourages you to work with our childbirth experts to communicate the best medical evidence to expectant parents. We will call you later this week to discuss how we can help you present a balanced perspective to your viewers.

Respectfully,

Pam Spry, PhD, CNM, FACNM, LCCE
Lamaze International President