Ina May Gaskin (1940–) [1]

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Ina May Gaskin was born on March 4, 1940, in Tennessee. She was the daughter of William Gaskin and Mary Faye Gaskin. She grew up in a large family, and her parents were very involved in the community. She graduated from Marshalltown High School in 1958 and then attended Iowa State University, where she studied English.

In 1971, Gaskin founded the Farm Midwifery Center in New Harmony, Indiana, which was one of the first midwifery centers in the United States. She served as the center’s director until 1980.

In 1976, Gaskin married Stephen Gaskin, and they had three children. However, the marriage ended in divorce in 1978.

In 1981, Gaskin founded the Midwife Center in New Haven, Connecticut, which became the first midwifery center in the United States to be accredited by the Accreditation Council for birthing centers.

In 1983, Gaskin founded the Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA), which is a membership organization for midwives.

In 1987, Gaskin became a professor at the University of California, San Francisco, where she taught courses in midwifery.

In 1990, Gaskin was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In 1992, Gaskin was appointed to the board of directors of the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

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In 2019, Gaskin was named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In 2020, Gaskin was appointed to the board of directors of the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

Gaskin was a strong advocate for midwifery and women’s health. She believed that midwives could provide safer and more natural childbirth experiences for women and their families.

Sources

Ina May Gaskin is a certified professional midwife, or CPM, in the US during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. She worked at the Farm Midwifery Center in Summertown, Tennessee, a center well known for its low rates of intervention, which contributed to low rates of maternal and fetal mortality. One technique Gaskin used when assisting women with delivery helped resolve a complication called shoulder dystocia, which is when a part of the infant’s body is delivered, but the rest of the body is stuck in the birth canal. Her work served as an example for midwives and obstetricians, physicians who specialize in a woman’s reproductive system, childbirth, and pregnancy, to use a low-intervention approach without medication or a cesarean section. Through her work in developing different birthing techniques, Gaskin provided women with alternative ways to deliver infants without the need for hospitals, medication, or surgical intervention, even in the case of complicated births.

Subject