



**Message received from Justin Armstrong, representative for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for Ontario, call received April 6th, 2020.**

**From transcribed voicemail:**

[Begin transcription]

"I am calling in regards to a question that you placed with the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services regarding whether or not your [doula] business would be deemed essential.

I am happy to discuss this further and can be reached at (416)558-8206...

Just by way of background, the ministry is unable to provide businesses with a determination as to whether or not [your business applies as an essential service or not] within interpretation, rather as to whether or not we believe the business [does or does not]....

[That decision] really falls on the business and whether or not the business believes that they [fall] under one of the categories on that list of essential services as posted [on April 4th].

I am happy to chat if you have any further questions again so like I said the phone number is (416)558-8206.

[End transcription]

**DOULA CANADA ADDITIONAL NOTE:**

The transcription of this voicemail does not openly state that doulas do fall under essential services. It states that it is up to the business owner, which means that any individual businesses must choose to take on the risk of fines or jail time, should authorities not agree with their interpretation.