

Since the early 1970s, the women's rights and the anti-establishment movements awoke women to rethinking their lives. Birth was part of this change in mindset. Midwives began working again even when they had to do this covertly. Hippies had their children in communes. Midwives still helped the poor women have their babies at home. But, obstetricians controlled birth, and they were at their apex of power and position. During the 70's, women were placed on tables with their legs up in stirrups. They were not allowed to have their husbands or partners with them when they delivered. Birth had become totally medical. The business of birth began to be handled like a factory – routines were devised to shuffle the populace through their doors. The doctors had created the "Birth Machine."