

College of Midwives of Alberta Code of Ethics

The midwife consistently upholds the values and standards of the profession in the best interests of their clients and the reputation of the profession.

Every midwife has a duty to practice truthfully and honestly with the best interest of their clients as paramount. Integrity demands that midwives willingly and consistently do what is right, maintaining the reputation and values of the profession.

The midwife shall practice midwifery in accordance with the Alberta Health Professions Act, The Midwifery Regulation, and the Standards, Policies and Guidelines of the College of Midwives of Alberta.

There are primary values identified in the CMA Code of Ethics and to demonstrate the values and standards of the profession, the following standards must be met:

- **Preserve dignity and promote justice**

1. Conducts themselves in a way that promotes clients' trust in midwives and the public's trust in the midwifery profession.
2. Provides midwifery care without discriminating on the basis of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, political beliefs, religion, family status, age, sexual orientation and physical or mental disability.
3. Is honest, professional, collaborative, respectful and candid in all professional dealings with clients, midwives, other health care providers and the College of Midwives of Alberta.
4. Recognizes the power imbalance inherent in the midwife-client relationship; establishes and maintains clear and appropriate professional boundaries always. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - 4.1 never pursue or engage in a sexual relationship with a client or member of a client's family
 - 4.2 appropriate interactions on social and digital media
 - 4.3 the acceptance of gifts which may be reasonably seen as a conflict of interest
 - 4.5 risk of coercion when engaging with a client in a non-clinical context (eg: personal, social, financial or business relationship)
5. Avoids the use of professional qualifications in the promotion of commercial products.
6. Recommends the use of products or services based only on research evidence and/or clinical judgement and not for commercial gain.

- **Provide safe, competent and ethical care**

7. Provide safe and appropriate care within the Standards of Practice and Competencies and within the scope of practice of midwives in Alberta in all circumstances. If unable to provide safe and appropriate care, the midwife shall make all reasonable and timely attempts to secure an alternative care provider for the client.
8. Never abandons a client in the course of labour and birth.
9. Discloses to the client any harm sustained to them while under their care. Disclosure must include explaining to clients promptly and accurately:
 - 9.1. the facts of the incident
 - 9.2. anticipated short-term and long-term effects
 - 9.3. recommended actions to address the consequences.
10. Makes referrals to other health care providers based on the client's best interest and not from any potential financial gain.
11. Clearly inform clients and other health care practitioners of the scope and limitations of midwifery practice
12. Practises in a manner which guards her own well-being and manages any mental or physical condition or disorder that affects or potentially effects their ability to provide safe and effective care.
13. Recognizes the limits imposed by fatigue, stress or illness, and adjusts their practise to the extent that is necessary.
14. Recognizes the effects of impairment on skill and judgement caused by the use of any substance (medical, legal, or illegal) and adjusts or refrains from practise to the extent that is necessary.
15. The midwife shall make known to the College the actions of another midwife who has engaged in unprofessional conduct.

- **Promote and respect informed decision-making**

16. Respect and promote a client's right to informed decision making.
17. Avoids acting in a conflict of interest, unless all the following circumstances apply:
 - 17.1. the midwife is satisfied that it is in the best interests of the client for that midwife to care for them.
 - 17.2. the conflict has been explained to the client and they have been advised of their right to seek care from another provider.

17.3 there is a reasonable belief that the client understands the conflict and their right to seek care elsewhere.

17.4. the client consents to the midwife's care despite the conflict having been documented.

- **Maintain privacy and confidentiality**

18. Takes every reasonable precaution to protect the privacy and confidentiality of client's personal health information, unless release of information is required or permitted by law.

Midwives with Practice management responsibilities must also:

19. Manage the Practice in a way that supports the physical and mental well-being of all clients.

20. Manage the Practice in a way that treats each individual working within the Practice in a fair and equitable manner and supports their physical and mental well-being.

21. Ensure that information publicized about their Practice is:

21.1 aligned with the Standards and Scope of Practice,

21.2 accurate,

21.3 verifiable.