

## Code of Ethics

Midwives are professionals and should always act in a manner that upholds and enhances the reputation of the profession. Midwives safeguard the interests of individual clients. Each midwife is accountable for her practice to her clients, institutions, the public and her profession.

1. The midwife shall practice midwifery in accordance with the Alberta Health Disciplines Act, the Midwifery Regulation, the Standards of Practice, and Policies and Guidelines of the College of Midwives of Alberta.
2. The midwife shall respect and promote birth as a normal life process.
3. The midwife shall provide 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.
4. A midwife shall not engage in the practice of midwifery while impaired, this includes but is not limited to drugs, alcohol, overtired or emotionally stressed.
5. The midwife shall maintain current competency in midwifery practice.
6. The midwife shall respect and promote a clients's right to informed choice.
7. The midwife shall maintain client privacy and confidentiality subject to health privacy legislation as it relates to midwifery and shall inform her clients of such.
8. The midwife shall provide continuity of care
9. The midwife shall not refuse to attend a client in the course of labour.
10. The midwife shall clearly inform clients and other health care practitioners of the scope and limitations of midwifery practice.
11. The midwife shall interact professionally, collaboratively, respectfully, and honestly with other midwives.
12. The midwife shall make known to the College the actions of another midwife who has engaged in unskilled practice or professional misconduct.
13. The midwife shall inform the College concerning unregistered persons illegally using the title 'midwife', or using any name, title, description or abbreviation in any manner so as to express or imply that the person is a registered member of the College.

14. The midwife shall provide safe and appropriate care within the Standards of Competency and Practice 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.
15. The midwife is obligated to guard her own well-being and remain fit to practice.
16. The midwife shall establish and uphold professional boundaries in all areas of midwifery practice. This includes, but is not limited to the areas of professional boundaries in the context of social and digital media, the acceptance of gifts which may be reasonably seen as a conflict of interest, and engaging in midwifery care with clients with whom the midwife has or had a personal relationship.

**Date Approved by Council 20th December 2013**

**Accepted by the Health Disciplines Board: June 3, 2014**

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