



CODE OF ETHICS FOR MIDWIVES IN SASKATCHEWAN

April 2021

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The observance of ethical standards increases respect and trust for midwifery, by both current and future practitioners as well as the community served.

Midwives shall practice midwifery in accordance with *The Midwifery Act*, regulations pursuant to *The Midwifery Act*, and *The Midwifery Regulatory Bylaws* of the Saskatchewan College of Midwives and other relevant laws and regulations.

General Responsibilities

- 1) Respect birth as a normal life process.
- 2) Maintain current competency in their midwifery practice.
- 3) Act in a manner that enhances the reputation of the profession.

Responsibilities to the Client

- 4) Provide midwifery care without discriminating on the basis of the prohibitions set out in the *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*.
- 5) Respect a client's right to informed choice.
- 6) Inform their clients of the scope of midwifery practice and any limitations to the individual midwife's scope of practice.
- 7) Not abandon care of a client in labour or in an emergency, but make all reasonable efforts not to be in a situation requiring deviation from accepted standards of care.
- 8) Actively promote equal access to health care that meets the needs of childbearing clients.

Informed Decision Making

- 9) Support the right of clients/families to participate actively in decisions about their care and respect clients' right to informed choice, acknowledging their individual needs, values and dignity.
- 10) Openly acknowledge to clients and other health care practitioners any contentious objection or conflict of interest, which may affect a clients' right to informed choice or access to care.

Confidentiality

- 11) Maintain client privacy and confidentiality subject to health privacy legislation as it relates to midwifery and so inform the client.
- 12) Establish and uphold professional boundaries in the context of social and digital media.

Responsibilities to the College, The Profession, and to Oneself

- 13) Maintain their own well-being and remain fit to practice.
- 14) Interact professionally, collaboratively, respectfully and honestly with the people with whom they work and practice.
- 15) Make known to the appropriate person or authority the practice of a colleague that appears not to maintain standards of practice in their profession.
- 16) Provide the best possible care within the midwifery scope of practice in all circumstances. When a midwife is unable to provide care, the midwife shall make all reasonable attempts to find alternative care for the client.

Financial and Personal Gain

- 17) Not accept any gift, favour or hospitality for a professional endorsement of a commercial product for participation as a registrant at continuing education events.
- 18) Not accept any gift, favour or hospitality from a client that could be interpreted as an inducement to provide preferential treatment to them.