

Central Texas Doula Association

Code of Ethics

RULES OF CONDUCT

Propriety: The Labor and/or Postpartum Support Provider, hereafter called the Doula, should maintain high standards of personal conduct in the capacity or role of Doula.

Competence and Professional Development: The Doula should strive to become and remain proficient in the professional practice and the performance of professional functions through continuing education, affiliation with related organizations and association with other Doulas.

Integrity: The Doula should act in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity.

ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO CLIENTS

Primacy of Client's Interests: The Doula's primary responsibility is to her clients.

Rights and Prerogatives of Clients: The Doula should make every effort to encourage her clients to assume personal responsibility for the decisions they make regarding medical care for themselves and their baby/babies before, during and after birth.

Confidentiality and Privacy: The Doula and her back-up should respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence all information obtained in the course of professional service.

Obligation to Serve: The Doula should assist each client seeking support either by providing services or making appropriate referrals.

Reliability: When the Doula agrees to work with a particular client, her obligation is to do so reliably, in a timely manner and without fail, for the term of the agreement. The agreement should clearly state any limitations on the Doula's availability and include clear back-up plans for such situations when the Doula is unavailable.

Fees: When setting fees, the Doula should ensure that they are fair, reasonable, considerate, and commensurate with services performed and with due regard for the client's ability to pay. The Doula must clearly state her fees to the client, and describe the services provided, terms of payment and refund policies.

ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO COLLEAGUES

Respect, Fairness and Courtesy: The Doula should treat colleagues with respect, courtesy, compassion, fairness and good faith.

Dealing with Colleagues' Clients: The Doula has the responsibility to relate to the clients of colleagues with full professional consideration, compassion and respect.

ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO CLIENTS' HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Respect, Fairness and Courtesy: The Doula should treat her client's caregivers with respect, courtesy, fairness and good faith.

Recognition of Clinical Responsibility: The Doula should recognize that responsibility for clinical management belongs to the Health Care Provider (nurse, midwife, physician) and the client. The Doula should not interfere with clinical management.

ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DOULA PROFESSION

Maintaining the Integrity of the Profession: The Doula should uphold and advance the values, ethics, appearance, knowledge and mission of the profession.

Community Service: The Doula should assist the profession by educating the general public and making doula support services available.

ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO SOCIETY

Promoting Maternal and Child Welfare: The Doula should promote the general health and safety of women and their babies. The Doula subscribes to the guidelines set forth by the Coalition for Improving Maternity Services.