

## **I. Scope**

- A) **Services Rendered.** The postpartum doula cares for the mother and her family in their home in the first few weeks following the birth. The doula provides non-medical support and companionship, assists with newborn care and sibling adjustment, meal preparation and household organization. The doula offers evidence-based information on newborn feeding, emotional and physical recovery from childbirth and other issues related to the postpartum period, and can make referrals if necessary.
- B) **Limits to Practice.** DONA International Standards and Certification apply to emotional, physical and educational support only. The DONA certified doula does not perform clinical or medical tasks such as examining the mother or baby, or taking temperatures, blood pressure checks, or any other type of postpartum clinical care.
- C) **Referrals.** For client needs beyond the scope of the doula's training, referrals are made to appropriate resources.

## **II. Commitment to Client.**

When the doula agrees to work with a particular client, the obligation is to do so reliably, to the best of the doula's ability, for the term of the agreement. Should any doula feel a need to discontinue service to an established client, it is the doula's responsibility to notify the client in writing and arrange for a replacement, if the client so desires. This may be accomplished by:

- Introducing the client to another doula colleague.
- Suggesting that another member of DONA International or other doula may be more appropriate for the situation.
- Contacting a DONA Regional Director or local doula organization for names of other doulas in the area.
- Following up with the client or doula colleague to make sure the client's needs are being accommodated.

## **III. Training and Experience**

- A) **Training.** Doulas who are certified by DONA International will have completed all the requirements as set forth in the DONA Requirements for Certification for Postpartum Doulas.
- B) **Experience.** Doulas certified by DONA International will have the experience as set forth in the DONA International Requirements for Postpartum Certification. This includes newborn care experience, breastfeeding education, attendance at a DONA approved workshop, applicable reading, a strong knowledge of local and national resources for the postpartum period and evaluations from both new mothers and their supporting partners.
- C) **Maintenance of Certification.** DONA certified postpartum doulas will maintain certification as outlined in the DONA International postpartum doula recertification packet. Recertification must be completed every three years.

**By signing this document, I agree to abide by DONA International's Standards of Practice.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_