

### I. Rules of Conduct

A. **Propriety.** The doula should maintain high standards of personal conduct in the capacity or identity as a postpartum doula.

B. **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 associations with other postpartum doulas.

C. **Integrity.** The doula should act in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity.

### II. Ethical Responsibility to Clients

A. **Primacy of Client's Interests.** The doula's primary responsibility is to her clients.

B. **Rights and Prerogatives of Clients.** The doula should make every effort to foster maximum self-determination on the part of her clients.

C. **Confidentiality and Privacy.** The doula should respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence all information obtained in the course of professional service.

D. **Obligation to Serve.** The doula should assist each client seeking postpartum doula support either by providing services or making appropriate referrals.

E. **Reliability.** 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.

F. **Fees.** When setting fees, the doula should ensure that they are fair, reasonable and commensurate with services performed. The doula must clearly state her fees to the client and describe the services provided, terms of payment and refund policies.

### III. Ethical Responsibility to Colleagues

A. **Respect, Fairness and Courtesy.** The doula should treat colleagues with respect, courtesy, fairness and good faith.

B. **Dealing with Colleagues' Clients.** The doula has the responsibility to relate to the clients of colleagues with full professional consideration.

### IV. Ethical Responsibility to the Postpartum Doula Profession

A. **Maintaining the Integrity of the Profession.** The doula should uphold and advance the values, ethics, knowledge and mission of the profession.

B. **Community Service.** The doula is encouraged to assist the DONA vision of "A doula for every person who wants one," by providing postpartum doula services at a reduced cost, if possible, or making appropriate referrals, as available.

### V. Ethical Responsibility to Society

A. **Promoting Maternal and Child Welfare.** The doula should promote the general health of women and their babies and, whenever possible, that of their family and friends as well.

### 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. Continuity of Care

- A. 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
  - i. Introducing the client to another doula colleague
  - ii. Suggesting that another member of DONA International or other doula may be more appropriate for the situation
  - iii. Contacting a DONA Regional Director or local doula organization for names of other doulas in the area
  - iv. 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 partner.
- 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.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_