

DONA Approved Trainer Code of Conduct

To assure quality and ethical practice, DONA International has established a Code of Conduct for DONA Approved Trainers, and a process by which unethical or other objectionable practice may be addressed. Trainers who do not adhere to the Trainer Code of Conduct may be suspended or have their approval revoked.

DONA reserves the right to approve, in its best judgment, those trainers who best represent DONA; uphold and value DONA's Mission, Vision, Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice; and meet or exceed all other trainer requirements. The trainer is considered a leadership position.

Code of Ethics

The trainer participates in the efforts of the doula profession and upholds DONA's Mission, Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics to improve the care of childbearing families.

The trainer safeguards the trainees' rights to privacy by protecting information of a confidential nature. However, in the case of acute concern regarding a trainee, the trainer may consult with the DONA Education Committee.

The trainer is a consumer advocate who promotes informed decision-making, the independence and competence of clients, and the collaboration of clients with the health care team.

The trainer demonstrates respect of clients in the way the discussion occurs around the client's circumstances, needs, and difficulties.

The trainer protects the privacy of clients, doulas and caregivers by demonstrating confidentiality in the anecdotes used in the teaching/instruction.

The trainer should, at all times, be fair, honest, respectful and courteous to fellow trainers and DONA volunteers, DONA's Board of Directors, contractors and the management company employees. This standard must be upheld in public, on social media and in person.

The trainer will not take action or make public statements that are negative and erode the DONA International brand without first following the steps to feedback and resolution as outlined in the Feedback Policy.

The trainer assumes responsibility and accountability for the trainer's individual judgments and actions which could result in loss of DONA approved status if the Code of Ethics or Standards of Practice are violated during the course of the trainer's career.

Standards of Practice

The trainer agrees to teach a DONA approved curriculum and to promote DONA Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics throughout each workshop. This includes adhering to all approved prerequisites, essential core information, and required hours of instruction.

The trainer agrees to keep the Education Committee up-to-date on any changes to their curriculum, handouts or speakers, and to submit training evaluations, rosters and annual reports to the Education Committee when requested and by the policy deadline (listed in the training affidavit).



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The trainer agrees to provide training materials that are approved, current and meet DONA's standards for a quality presentation.

The trainer agrees to practice according to DONA's Education policies for trainers.

The trainer agrees to comply with the World Health Organization's International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.

The trainer maintains competence in the field of childbirth and/or postpartum support by actively participating as a doula (as required) and through formal continuing education, thereby incorporating new evidenced-based information into the doula training.

With the support of DONA International, the trainer will make a reasonable effort to be responsive to their workshop participants during the certification period

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____