

CODE OF ETHICS
of the
NORTHERN COLORADO DOULA ASSOCIATION

I. Rules of Conduct

- A. *Propriety.* The birth professional should maintain high standards of personal conduct in the capacity or identity as a provider.
- B. *Competence and Professional Development.* The birth professional shall remain proficient in their professional practice through continuing education, affiliation with related organizations, and associations with other birth professionals.
- C. *Integrity.* The birth professional should act in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity, and adhere to the Scope of Practice provided by their professional or state regulatory body.
- D. *Judicious Use of Technology.* The birth professional is responsible for ensuring that any correspondence via public forum, including the world-wide-web, cannot be construed as libel or slander against any individual, business, or organization. Client confidentiality should be upheld according to HIPPA guidelines across all electronic medium.

II. Ethical Responsibility to Clients

- A. *Primacy of Client's Interests.* The birth professional's primary responsibility is to their clients.
- B. *Rights and Prerogatives of Clients.* The birth professional should make every effort to foster maximum self-determination on the part of their clients.
- C. *Confidentiality and Privacy.* The birth professional should respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence all information obtained in the course of professional service, and in accordance to HIPPA guidelines.
- D. *Obligation to Serve.* The birth professional should assist each client by providing services or making appropriate referrals if applicable.
- E. *Reliability.* When a birth professional agrees to work with a particular client, their obligation to provide agreed upon services within the terms of agreement.
- F. *Fees.* When setting fees, the birth professional should ensure that they are fair, reasonable, considerate, and commensurate with services provided.

III. Ethical Responsibility to Colleagues

- A. *Respect, Fairness, and Courtesy.* The birth professional is obligated to treat the body of the Northern Colorado Doula Association and its members with respect, courtesy, fairness, good faith. Grievances will be addressed in accordance with the Grievance Policy outlined in the Bylaws of the Association.
- B. *Dealing with Colleagues' Clients.* The birth professional has the responsibility to relate to the clients of colleagues with full professional consideration. Without proper authorization of the release of medical information, client confidentiality should be upheld between professionals.