



Code of Conduct for Registered Midwives in the Northwest Territories

Established By:
Midwives Association of the Northwest Territories
Effective October 15, 2019

Endorsed by the Minister of Health and Social Services

Diane Thom
Minister of Health and Social Services



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This code sets forth principles of ethical and professional conduct to guide midwives in their practice and their interactions with clients and families, colleagues, and the community. Failure by midwives to align their practice and behaviour with these principles may constitute unprofessional conduct within the meaning of the *Midwifery Profession Act* (s.17).

Registered Midwives shall

1. Act, at all times, in such a manner as to justify public trust and confidence, to uphold and enhance the good standing and reputation of the profession, to serve the interests of society and above all, to protect and promote the health and well-being of their clients.
2. Perform all responsibilities in accordance with their legislated scope of practice and professional standards.
3. Maintain currency in knowledge and skills, and practice within the bounds of their competence and personal limitations.
4. Assume responsibility for their own self-care, and refrain from providing professional services while impaired or in any way unfit to practice.
5. Uphold the integrity of the profession by refraining from engaging in activities or accepting favours that create a conflict of interest.
6. Recognize and honour the dignity and intrinsic worth of each person, and provide care without judgement or bias.
7. Actively promote equitable access to health care and services that meet the reproductive and sexual health needs of individuals and families.
8. Provide care to the best of their ability in all circumstances, ensuring that no person is denied care. In circumstances where midwifery care is not the appropriate service, midwives shall facilitate access to alternative care.
9. Respect and promote clients' autonomy and right to informed choice.
10. Openly disclose any conscientious objections or conflicts of interest that may impact their professional practice, and facilitate client access to an alternate practitioner who is able to provide care to the client without objection or conflict.
11. Ensure that client privacy is protected and that confidentiality is maintained except where disclosure is mandated by law.
12. Protect clients and colleagues from harmful, unethical, or incompetent practice or behaviour by taking appropriate action that may include reporting mandated by law.