

Standard:	Code of Ethics
Approved By:	CMNL
Date Approved:	July 2018
Date to be Reviewed:	July 2021
Effective Date:	July 2018



CODE OF ETHICS

Midwives of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Code of Ethics for Registered Midwives (RM), herein called the Code, is a statement of the ethical values of RMs in Newfoundland and Labrador. This Code is a document designed to inform RMs and consumers about the ethical values of midwifery practice. RMs are bound to their code of ethics as part of a regulatory process that serves and protects the public.

Each RM shall act to safeguard the interests of individual clients at all times to justify public trust and confidence, to uphold and enhance the good standing and reputation of the profession, and to serve the interest of society.

Each RM is responsible for professional accountability and shall:

1. Act in a way that promotes and safeguards the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of clients and advocate for their interests to be heard.
2. Avoid any abuse of the client-midwife relationship that allows privileged access to the person, property, residence, personal practices, or customs of the client.
3. Clearly inform and educate clients and the public as to the scope, role, function, standards and philosophy of midwifery practice, and with respect to any limitations of midwifery.
4. Respect clients' right to informed choice and right to ongoing participation in decisions about their body and care.
5. Provide care which respects individuals' needs, values and dignity, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, spiritual beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status, disability, or socioeconomic status.
6. Refrain from disclosing confidential information about a client without the consent of the client or the client's authorized representative, except where disclosure is required or authorized by law.
7. Ensure that no action or omission on their part or within their sphere of influence is harmful to the condition or safety of clients.
8. Never engage in the practice of midwifery while their ability to perform any professional service is impaired.
9. Openly acknowledge to clients and health care practitioners any conscientious objection or conflict of interest, which may affect professional practice or the client's right to informed choice.
10. Interact professionally, collaboratively, respectfully and honestly with other health care professionals.
11. Consult or transfer care in accordance with the standards of practice of the profession.
12. Assist clients to find appropriate alternate care if for any reason the RM is unable to provide care.

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13. Attempt to provide the best possible care under any circumstance. A RM shall not refuse to attend or abandon a client in active labour or in an emergency.
14. Respect birth as a normal life process. The RM understands, promotes and facilitates the physiological processes of pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum.
15. Build a professional reputation based upon the RM's ability and integrity. Advertise professional services only in a manner that upholds the dignity of the profession.
16. Avoid the use of professional qualifications in the promotion of commercial products, in order to maintain the independence of professional judgment.
17. Decline any gift, favour or hospitality, which might reasonably be seen to create conflict of interest.
18. Assume responsibility for complying with the mandatory reporting requirements of the Regulated Health Professions Act.
19. Strive to maintain and improve professional knowledge and competence.
20. Facilitate ethical research in midwifery practice.
21. Assist health care practitioners and students to develop and maintain professional competence.
22. Actively promote equitable access to health care that meets the needs of childbearing individuals.
23. Adhere to Newfoundland and Labrador laws and regulations that govern the practice of an RM including but not limited to: the Health Professions Act (2010) and the Newfoundland and Labrador Council of Health Professionals (NLCHP), NL Midwives Regulations (2016), the Personal Health Information Act (2011), the By-laws, Standards and Code of Ethics of the CMNL.