



CODE OF ETHICS

Certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) have three ethical mandates in achieving the mission of midwifery to promote the health and well-being of women and newborns within their families and communities. The first mandate is directed toward the individual women and their families for whom the midwives provide care, the second mandate is to a broader audience for the “public good” for the benefit of all women and their families, and the third mandate is to the profession of midwifery to assure its integrity and in turn its ability to fulfill the mission of midwifery.

Midwives in all aspects of professional relationships will:

1. Respect basic human rights and the dignity of all persons.
2. Respect their own self worth, dignity and professional integrity.

Midwives in all aspects of their professional practice will:

3. Develop a partnership with the woman, in which each shares relevant information that leads to informed decision-making, consent to an evolving plan of care, and acceptance of responsibility for the outcome of their choices.
4. Act without discrimination based on factors such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, lifestyle, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, disability, or nature of the health problem.
5. Provide an environment where privacy is protected and in which all pertinent information is shared without bias, coercion, or deception.
6. Maintain confidentiality except where disclosure is mandated by law.
7. Maintain the necessary knowledge, skills and behaviors needed for competence.
8. Protect women, their families, and colleagues from harmful, unethical, and incompetent practices by taking appropriate action that may include reporting as mandated by law.

Midwives as members of a profession will:

9. Promote, advocate for, and strive to protect the rights, health, and well-being of women, families and communities.
10. Promote just distribution of resources and equity in access to quality health services.
11. Promote and support the education of midwifery students and peers, standards of practice, research and policies that enhance the health of women, families and communities.

Source: Ad Hoc Committee on Code of Ethics

Approved by Board of Directors June 2005

Reviewed and Endorsed by the ACNM Ethics Committee, October 2008