

Salt Spring Doula Collective

Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics

Responsibilities:

The Doula's primary responsibility is to offer physical, emotional and informational support to her client. She will foster maximum self-determination on the part of her client. The Doula will assist each client either by providing services that are within her scope of practice, or making appropriate referrals.

Confidentiality and Privacy:

The Doula will respect the privacy of her client (including friends and family) and hold in confidence all information obtained during the course of the professional service. Note: For the purpose of certification or continuing education within the profession, Doulas may request client to sign a consent form for sharing of specific information. The Doula will identify such information explicitly to her client.

Limitations of a Doula:

A trained Doula is certified to provide emotional and physical support. A Doula does not provide clinical advice, clinical evaluation, nor perform any medical tasks (such as taking blood pressure, fetal heart tone checks, vaginal exams or postpartum clinical care).

Doulas are limited to supporting the mother. Doulas who hold professional licensing in other modalities who are able to assess or offer information outside of the scope of Doula practice must be current in their education and carry additional insurance, or belong to a professional association in relation to that particular profession/skill set. Doulas who offer other professional services (yoga, homeopathy, massage, etc.) will offer such services and set their own fees according to their level of expertise and professional limitations. The Doula Collective is not responsible for services offered outside the scope of Birth Doula and Postpartum Doula Services.

Community Service:

The Doula will work to make birth support services known to the general public.

Fees:

The Doula will ensure that her fees are fair and reasonable and collected in a timely manner. Each Doula sets her own fees and services.

Profession:

Doulas are not required to pay fees to a Professional Doula Association (CAPPA, DONA, etc). Some Doulas in the Collective may choose to be members of professional organization(s). Doulas in the Collective may practice professional skills or services that complement Doula skills and services, as long as they maintain professional standards of practice for any additional skill set they intend to offer to their client, and they educate their clients about the differences and scope of practice for each skill set (e.g. lactation consultant, herbalist, acupuncturist, etc.). The Doula Collective is not responsible for services offered outside the scope of Birth Doula and Postpartum Doula standards of practice.

Doulas who are members of the Salt Spring Doula Collective agree to:

- Have successfully completed a Doula training course,
- Have successfully completed at least one Prenatal Education Series
- Have successfully completed at least one course/training/workshop in Breastfeeding
- Be honest and forthcoming with clients, each other and the public about their Doula training curriculum, date of training and the number of births they have supported as a Doula
- Maintain “active status” through participation in educational workshops (online, in person), individual and group study, and other educational activities in the field, such as teaching or taking childbirth classes
- Treat Collective members with collegialism, fairness, respect and good faith

Availability and Back-Up:

The Doula will make every effort to uphold the Doula/client contract in which she indicates her availability on-call for the client (generally 38 weeks to 42 weeks gestation). She agrees to be reliable for the term of the agreement. In the event that the Doula is unable to fulfill her obligations, a back-up Doula may be agreed upon by the Doula and client.

Personal Views:

The personal views of a Doula may not reflect that of the Doula Collective.

Review:

The Doula Collective Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics may be reviewed and/or rewritten by its current members at any time. The most current copy of the Code will be available to the public on the Doula Collective website.