



ANCIENT SONG DOULA SERVICES CODE OF ETHICS

I. Rules of Conduct

A. ***Propriety.*** The doula will maintain high standards of personal conduct in the capacity or identity as a doula.

B. ***Competence and Professional Development.*** The doula will strive to become and remain proficient in the professional practice and the performance of professional functions through continuing education, affiliation with related organizations and association with other doulas.

C. ***Integrity.*** The doula will act in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity.

II. Ethical Responsibilities to Clients

A. ***Primacy of Client's Interests.*** The doula's primary responsibility is to her clients.

B. ***Rights and Prerogatives of Clients.*** The doula will make every effort to foster maximum self- determination on the part of her clients.

C. ***Confidentiality and Privacy.*** The doula will strive to respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence all information obtained in the course of professional service.

D. ***Obligation to Serve.*** The doula will assist each client seeking support either by providing services or by making appropriate referrals.

E. ***Reliability.*** When the doula agrees to work with a particular client, her obligation is to do so reliably, without fail, for the term of the agreement. The agreement should clearly state any limitations on the doula's availability, and include clear back-up plans for such situations when the doula is unavailable.

F. ***Fees.*** When setting fees, the doula should ensure that they are fair, reasonable, considerate, and commensurate with the service performed.

III. Ethical Responsibility to Colleagues

A. ***Respect, Fairness, and Courtesy.*** The doula will treat colleagues with respect, courtesy, fairness, and good faith.

B. ***Dealing with Colleagues' Clients.*** The doula has the responsibility to relate to the clients of colleagues with the same ethical and professional consideration as with her own clients.

IV. Ethical Responsibility to the Doula Profession

A. ***Maintaining the Integrity of the Profession.*** The doula upholds and advances the values, ethics, knowledge and mission of the profession.

B. ***Community Service.*** The doula will assist the profession in making labor and postpartum support services available everyone regardless of race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation.

V. Ethical Responsibilities to Society

A. ***Promoting Maternal and Child Welfare.*** The doula promotes the general health of women and their babies, and whenever possible, that of their families and friends as well.