

## MIDWIFE/CLIENT AGREEMENT OF MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

### I. MIDWIFE RESPONSIBILITIES

#### A. A midwife recognizes certain obligations and responsibilities

1. The obligation to serve as the guardian of normal birth, alert to possible complications but always on guard against arbitrary interference.
2. The obligation to honor the absolute confidentiality of the information and the details of the client's condition.
3. The obligation to provide complete, accurate, and relevant information to the client (and obtain a written consent form) so that she can make informed choices regarding her health care.
4. The obligation, when referring a client to another health care provider, to remain responsible for the client until she is either discharged or formally transferred.
5. The responsibility to develop and utilize a safe and efficient mechanism for medical consultation, collaboration, and referral.
6. The obligation to continue professional development through ongoing evaluation, including diligent study of all subjects relevant to midwifery practice.
7. The obligation to know and comply with all legal requirements related to midwifery practice within the state of New Jersey, and to work within the law to provide for the unobstructed practice of midwifery within the state.
8. The responsibility to maintain accountability for all midwifery care delivered under her supervision; assignment and delegation of duties to other midwives or apprentices should be equal to their educational preparation and demonstrated proficiency.
9. The obligation to accurately document the client's history, condition, physical progress, and other vital information obtained during client care.

### II. CLIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

**A. Midwives and their clients share in the responsibility of pregnancy, birth and postpartum care. A thorough commitment from the client and her family is necessary to ensure the safety and well being of mother and baby. Most clients seeking midwifery care accept responsibility for their health, sharing information about changes in their pregnancy and matters that may affect their pregnancy and birth. It is important to maintain communication in order to respond to the particular needs a pregnant client may have during this special time in her life. A client who demonstrates an appropriate level of responsibility:**

1. Will work with the midwife to change or improve diet and health habits, if needed.
2. Will agree to additional screening, tests, or physician visits if needed due to family, medical, or obstetrical history.
3. Will adhere to her appointment schedule, changing times only when necessary and with suitable notification.
4. Will discuss and abide by a financial agreement.
5. Will make a commitment to learn about her body, the changes that occur during pregnancy, and the birth process.
6. Will agree to a transfer of care, if necessary, after all aspects of the situation are considered and discussed.
7. Will respect the scheduling difficulties of a midwife's professional and personal life.
8. Will try not to put unnecessary demands on the midwife's time and energy by requesting services that fall outside of the midwife's "Normal Care".

Client Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Midwife Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_