

Certified Direct-Entry Midwives

Code of Ethics

April 1994



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY,
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

***DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING***

ALASKA BOARD OF CERTIFIED DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIVES

CODE OF ETHICS

On April 26, 1994 the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives adopted the following code of ethics:

1. The principle objective of the midwifery profession is to render service to humanity with full respect for the dignity of the human race. Midwives should merit the confidence of patients entrusted to their care, rendering to each a full measure of services and devotion.
2. Midwives should strive continually to improve medical knowledge and skill, and should make available to their clients and colleagues the benefits of their professional attainments.
3. A midwife should practice a method of maternal care utilizing accreditable research as criteria for care, and promote such research.
4. The midwifery profession should safeguard the public and itself against midwives deficient in moral character or professional competence. Midwives should observe all laws, uphold the dignity and honor of the profession and accept its self-imposed disciplines. They should expose, without hesitation, illegal or unethical conduct of fellow members of the profession.
5. A midwife may choose whom she will serve. In a life-threatening emergency, however, she should render service to the best of her ability. Having undertaken the care of a client, she may not neglect her; and, unless she has been discharged, she may discontinue services only after giving adequate notice.
6. A midwife should not dispense her services under terms or conditions which tend to interfere with or impair her midwifery judgement and skill or tend to cause a deterioration of the quality of midwifery care.
7. A midwife should seek consultation and/or referral upon request; in doubtful or difficult cases; or whenever it appears that the quality of health care would be enhanced thereby.
8. A midwife may not reveal the confidences entrusted to her in the course of midwifery attendance, or the deficiencies she may observe in the character of patients, unless she is required to do so by law or unless it becomes necessary in order to protect the welfare of the individual or of the community.
9. The honored ideals of the midwifery profession imply that the responsibilities of the midwife extend not only to the individual, but also to society where these responsibilities deserve her interest and participation in activities which have the purpose of improving both the health and the well-being of the individual and the community.