

DASC (Doula Association of Southern California)
Code of Ethics

All DASC members are required to adhere to the DASC Code of Ethics. Any doula operating beyond the Standards of Practice or Code of Ethics will be removed from the DASC referral list.

I. Rules of Conduct

- A. *Propriety.* Doula will maintain a high standard of personal and professional conduct in their role as a doula.
- B. *Competence and Professional Development.* The doula will strive to become and remain proficient and competent in their profession through continuing education, affiliation with relevant organizations, and connection with other doulas.
- C. *Integrity.* The doula will act in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity. The doula will not present themselves as possessing qualifications they do not have.

II. Ethical Responsibilities to Clients

- A. *Anti-discrimination.* The doula will treat every client with respect and fairness regardless of their ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, citizenship, disability, and/or marital status and will uphold all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- B. *Primacy of Clients' Interests.* The doula's primary responsibility is to their clients and their clients' decisions.
- C. *Rights and Prerogatives of Clients.* The doula will make every effort to foster their clients' self-determination and not state their personal opinions as fact.
- D. *Confidentiality and Privacy.* The doula will strive to respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence all information obtained during services rendered except with their clients' express permission.
- E. *Obligation to Serve.* The doula will assist each client seeking support either by providing services or by making appropriate referrals.
- F. *Reliability.* When the doula agrees to work with a particular client, their obligation is to do so reliably 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.
- G. *Fees.* When setting fees, the doula should ensure that they are fair, considerate, and appropriate for the services rendered.

III. Ethical Responsibility to Colleagues

- A. *Respect and courtesy.* The doula will treat colleagues with respect, fairness, and good faith, also not discriminating on the basis of ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, citizenship, disability, and/or marital status.

- B. *Dealing with Colleagues' Clients.* The doula has the responsibility to relate to the clients of colleagues with the same ethical and professional courtesy as with their 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 to the general public.

V. Ethical Responsibilities to Society

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