



## DOULA SERVICES ASSOCIATION

### Application for NEW Membership

The DSA Membership Year is May 1<sup>st</sup>- April 30<sup>th</sup>

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Welcome to the Doula Services Association of British Columbia (DSA). We are pleased that you have made the decision to join our provincial association.

After your application and membership fees have been received, the DSA will email you a New Members Package. You should receive it within two weeks. If you have not received it within this time frame please email us at [info@bcdoulas.org](mailto:info@bcdoulas.org) (please add this email address to your email 'safe list' as soon as possible in order to ensure that you receive all correspondence from us). In this day and age of technology we contact our members primarily via email for meeting dates, special events, notices, etc. We will only contact you by phone or mailing address if you do not have an email address.

As a new member it is important to also visit our website at [www.bcdoulas.org](http://www.bcdoulas.org) to find valuable information about the DSA. Much of this information can be found on our private and protected Members Only Section, including applications for our referral lists. You will need a password and user ID to get into the Members Only Section. Once your application and fee has been processed, you will find the password and user ID in the New Members Package. The Members Only Section on our DSA site is only for our DSA members and is not to be shared with anyone who is not. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

The Doula Services Association is a "Volunteer Powered" support group and members who donate their time and energy to our association are rewarded with lower membership dues. The DSA encourages all their members to volunteer with the DSA in some capacity or another. As a result we have our Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) for renewing members. If a member volunteers a minimum of five hours throughout the membership year, and those hours are logged with our VIP Coordinator then your next year's renewal fees will remain the same as when you joined. Please visit our website at [www.bcdoulas.org](http://www.bcdoulas.org) to find more information regarding the Volunteer Incentive Program and contact us to find out more about how you can get involved!

We look forward to getting to know you at our quarterly membership meetings and professional development events throughout the year.

Good luck and once again, welcome!

In the Doula Spirit,  
The DSA Board of Directors

# DSA CODE OF ETHICS

## I. Rules of Conduct

- A. *Propriety.* The Labour and/or Postpartum Support Provider, hereafter called the Provider, should maintain high standards of personal conduct in the capacity or role of Provider.
- B. *Competence and Professional Development.* The Provider should strive to become and remain proficient in the professional practice and the performance of professional functions through continuing education, affiliation with related organizations and associations with other Providers.
- C. *Integrity.* The Provider should act in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity.

## II. Ethical Responsibility to Clients

- A. *Primacy of Clients Interests.* The Provider's primary responsibility is to her clients.
- B. *Rights and Prerogatives of Clients.* The Provider should make every effort to foster maximum self-determination on the part of her clients.
- C. *Confidentiality and Privacy.* The Provider should respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence all information obtained in the course of professional service.
- D. *Obligation to Serve.* The Provider should assist each client seeking labour and/or postpartum support either by providing services or making appropriate referrals.
- E. *Reliability.* When the Provider 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 Provider's availability and include clear back-up plans for such situations when the Provider is unavailable.
- F. *Fees.* When setting fees the Provider should ensure that they are fair, reasonable, considerate and commensurate with service performed and with due regard for the Client's ability to pay.

## III. Ethical Responsibility to Colleagues

- A. *Respect Fairness and Courtesy.* The Provider should treat colleagues with respect, courtesy, fairness and good faith.
- B. *Dealing with Colleague's Clients.* The Provider has the responsibility to relate to the clients of colleagues with full professional consideration.

#### **IV. Ethical Responsibility to Health Care Providers of the Client**

- A. *Respect, Fairness and Courtesy.* The Provider should treat her client's caregivers with respect, courtesy, fairness and good faith.
- B. *Recognition of Clinical Responsibility.* The Provider should recognize that responsibility for clinical management belongs to the Health Care Provider (nurse, midwife, physician) and the client. The Provider should not interfere with clinical management beyond making suggestions to or asking questions of the Health Care Provider and client. based on her knowledge of the client's birth plans and preferences.

#### **V. Ethical Responsibility to the Doula Profession**

- A. *Maintaining the Integrity of the Profession.* The Provider should uphold and advance the values, ethics, knowledge and mission of the profession.
- B. *Community Service.* The Provider should assist the profession in making doula support services available to the general public.

#### **VI. Ethical Responsibility to Society**

- A. *Promoting Maternal and Child Welfare.* The Provider should promote the general health of women and their babies, and whenever possible, that of their family and friends as well.

# DSA STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

## I. Scope of Practice

- A. *Services Rendered.* The Labour Support Provider, hereafter called the Provider, accompanies the woman in labour, provides emotional and physical support, suggests comfort measures and provides support and suggestions for the partner. Whenever possible, the Provider provides prenatal and postpartum emotional support, including education and advocacy throughout the course of service.
- B. *Limits to Practice.* The Provider does not perform clinical or medical tasks such as taking blood pressure or temperature, fetal heart tone checks, vaginal examinations or postpartum clinical care. DSA Standards apply to emotional and physical support only. Providers who are also health care professionals may provide these services within the scope and standards of their professions.
- C. *Advocacy.* The Provider advocates for the client's wishes as expressed in her birth plan, in prenatal conversations and intrapartum discussion. She helps the mother incorporate changes in plans if and when the need arises and enhances communication between client and caregiver. Clients and Providers must recognize that the advocacy role does not include the Provider speaking on behalf of the client or making decisions for the client. The advocacy role is best described as support, information and mediation or negotiation.
- D. *Referrals.* For client needs beyond the scope of the doula's training, referrals are made to appropriate resources.

## II. Continuity of Care

- A. *Back-up Arrangements.* The Provider should make back-up arrangements with another Provider to ensure services to the client if the Provider is sick or unable to be reached. Should any Provider feel the need to discontinue service to an established client, it is the Provider's responsibility to notify the client in writing and arrange for a replacement, if the client so desires. This may be accomplished by:
  - i. Introducing the client to the Provider's back-up associate.
  - ii. Suggesting that another member of Doula Services Association or other Provider may be more appropriate for the client's needs.
  - iii. Contacting the Referral Coordinator for names of other Providers in the area or suggesting the client do so.
  - iv. Following up with client or back-up Provider to make sure the client's needs are being accommodated.

### **III. Training and Experience**

- A. *Training.* Providers who have successfully completed the DSA Application for Referral Lists A and B will have completed the following minimum training requirements: completion of a labour support course which consists of at least fourteen hours of training, documentation of continuing education in maternal-child health, attendance of at least two DSA meetings per year, completion of a narrative statement on the value and purpose of labour support and observation or instruction of a childbirth education series.
  
- B. *Experience.* Providers who have successfully completed the DSA Application for Referral List A will have the following minimum experience: observation of or support for, at least three births (other than their own), including written reflections and observations of each.

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**New Membership Fees** (please note that pro-rated fees are for **new members only**)

**\$30.00** (if payment is received between **May – September**)

**\$15.00** (if payment is received between **October – April**)

**\$10.00** Nametag Fee

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as you would like it to appear on your nametag (if applicable, please note the \$10 nametag fee):

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque: \_\_\_\_\_ PayPal: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you receive your Doula training? Name of Institution/Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Birth Doula: \_\_\_\_\_ and/or Postpartum Doula: \_\_\_\_\_

The DSA encourages all members to participate in a variety of activities and events. On which committee would you be interested in volunteering?

Fundraising: \_\_\_\_\_ Promotions: \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Tree: \_\_\_\_\_

What special skills do you have (public relations, computer, fundraising, etc.)? Please be specific about your experience:

**I have read the attached guidelines and will abide by the DSA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Please email your completed application to [info@bcdoulas.org](mailto:info@bcdoulas.org) or post it to:

Shelina Jamani,  
11036 Westridge Place  
Delta, B.C. V4E 2N5

