



Tiny Love Birth Doula Certification - Standards of Practice

Services Provided

A Tiny Love Birth Doula accompanies the woman and her partner in labor, providing emotional and physical support. The doula suggests comfort measures, provides physical and emotional support and suggestions for the partner. The doula provides pre- and post-partum education, resources, emotional support, to include information on practices and procedures, and information that can assist in the client making informed decisions about her care. Doulas do not “prescribe” treatment; suggestions, advice or information made available within the role of providing doula services must be done with recommendation that the client communicate with her care provider before using any application, remedy, or physical techniques that could influence her pregnancy or health or interfere with the relationship between client and care provider. Doulas do not practice medicine or midwifery and do not prescribe or diagnose in any modality unless they also hold certifications or licenses to do so, and even then recommend the client check with the care provider first.

Limits to Practice

Tiny Love Birth Doula Training does not prepare a doula to use herbs, homeopathy, essential oils, acupuncture, or any other medicine. Doulas that practice as adjunct practitioners must also practice under their certification/licensing regulations. Tiny Love Birth Doulas do not practice medicine, offer clinical assessments or offer medical advice. If a doula is offering these skills, she is not practicing as a Tiny Love Birth Doula. Each woman is encouraged to advise her primary care team of all herbal, homeopathic, supplements, or OTC medicines for a clearer health picture for her primary care provider. Fostering good communication with her health care provider leads to better care and satisfaction.

Advocacy

Tiny Love Birth Doulas act as advocates on behalf of the mother’s wishes as communicated in her birth plan or in prior conversations; they do not act as decision makers for their clients. All health care decisions are made by the client (or the client’s legal representative) and not by the doula. All communication referring to health care decisions is made by the client (or the client’s legal representative) to their primary health care providers. The doula assists in mediating communication when appropriate.

Professional Regard for Colleagues

All Tiny Love Birth Doulas whether students or Certified Doulas will act in accordance with the greatest professional regard for colleagues and their clients, knowing that the doula represents an entire community, the doula’s behavior should consistently demonstrate exceptional ethical conduct.

Referrals

All Tiny Love doulas are expected to create a list of local providers and advised to refer to the appropriate service provider for all care outside of the doula’s scope of practice. In supporting the best person for the situation, doulas should also refer to other doulas if the client has needs better fulfilled by a different doula.

Continuity of Care

It is essential that doulas are able to offer continuity of care, including arrangements for back up doula support, referring to other providers as stated in referrals, client follow-up, and follow up with back up doula if one is used in your place, as well as delivering appropriate payment to back-up or a refund to clients as necessary. In the spirit of continuity, a doula should advise clients of vacation dates before being hired, if at all possible.

Training

Certification is only offered after completion of the on-line doula training Modules, and associated assignments, attendance and good evaluation of births, mentoring, and signature attesting to adherence to this Scope of Practice Statement. Please visit Tiny Love Birth Doula Training Website for more information on all requirements.

Removal from Programs or Loss of Certification

If a student or certified doula acts in a manner that brings the professional ethics, or standards of practice of a Tiny Love Birth Doula professional into question, via fraud, abuse or practicing outside of the scope of practice, they will be removed from the program, with no refunds offered, or certification will be revoked.

Revoking a certification is a serious matter and it can be caused by fraudulently completing course work, operating outside of the Standards of Practice, or in the case of professional misconduct. Tiny Love Birth Doula Training and Certification Program cannot be held liable for individual doulas actions, we are solely an education provider furnishing a certificate upon completion, and each student is an independent service provider and business owner. However, we do take complaints seriously and investigate claims of misconduct, and follow up with appropriate action.

Mediation may be provided through the Tiny Love Birth Doula Training Program Administrators.