



## **Tiny Love Birth Doula Certification - Standards of Practice**

### **Services Provided**

The 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 education regarding options and rights, policies and procedures, and community resources that can assist the client in making informed decisions about her care.

The doula does not “prescribe” treatment. Instead, the suggestions, advice or information provided within the role of doula services must be done with recommendation that the client communicate with her care provider before using any application, remedy, or physical technique that could influence her pregnancy or health or interfere with the relationship between client and care provider.

### **Limits to Practice**

Tiny Love Birth Doula Training does not prepare a doula to act as a midwife’s assistant, an alternative medicine provider, and any type of medical provider. Tiny Love does not provide training in the use of herbs, homeopathy, essential oils, acupuncture, or any other medicine. Doulas that have the training and certification or licensure to provide the care described above must practice under their certification/licensing regulations. The Tiny Love Birth Doula does not offer clinical assessments or offer medical advice. If the doula is offering these skills, she is not practicing as a Tiny Love Birth Doula. Each client is encouraged to advise her care provider of all herbal, homeopathic, supplements, OTC medicines or alternative treatments. Fostering good communication with her care provider leads to better care, satisfaction, and health outcomes.

### **Advocacy**

The Tiny Love Birth Doula acts as an advocate on behalf of the client’s wishes as communicated in her birth plan or in prior conversations. All health care communications and decisions are made by the client (or the client’s legal representative) and not by the doula. The doula assists in mediating communication

when appropriate and assists the client in getting the information needed to make informed decisions. The doula strives to create a positive, collaborative and respectful environment with her clients and all care providers.

### **Professional Regard for Colleagues**

The Tiny Love Birth Doula whether a student or Certified Doula will act 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.

### **Professional Regard for Clients**

The Tiny Love Doula always works in the client's best interest. The doula encourages the client to make their own decisions in all aspects of care. The doula respects the privacy of clients and keeps all shared information in confidence. If the doula is unable to provide services to the client, it is her obligation to provide a suitable back up doula or a referral to other professionals that can best serve the client's needs. When the doula agrees to work with a client, it is his/her responsibility to do so as described in the formal agreement or contract.

### **Referrals**

The Tiny Love doula is expected to create a list of local providers and is advised to refer to the appropriate service provider for all care outside of the doula's scope of practice. In supporting the idea that there is a best doula for every client, the doula 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. This includes appropriate payment to the back-up doula or a refund to clients as necessary. In the spirit of continuity, a doula should advise clients of dates and times in which she will not be available 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.