



Revised May 1998

Standard on Second Birth Attendant

The Second Birth Attendant is someone who is not authorized under both the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA), 1991* and the *Midwifery Act, 1991*.

Each birth should be planned with the understanding that two midwives will be in attendance regardless of setting. In situations where there is demonstrated need for a temporary alternate practice arrangement, the midwifery practice must submit an *Application for Temporary Alternate Practice Arrangements within the Model of Midwifery Practice* to be approved by the College of Midwives of Ontario.

The second birth attendant should be competent to assist at birth and support the midwifery model of care.

In approved temporary alternate practice arrangements where a midwife works with a second attendant,¹

- 1) the midwife is responsible for primary care throughout the full course of care;
- 2) the midwife must ensure that the care provided be in accordance with the *Philosophy of Midwifery Care in Ontario* and the *Code of Ethics* of the College of Midwives of Ontario;
- 3) the second birth attendant may not perform authorized acts specified under the *RHPA, 1991* and the *Midwifery Act, 1991*;
- 4) if the second birth attendant is a health professional regulated under the *RHPA, 1991*, she may perform only those authorized acts defined in both the *RHPA, 1991* and her professional statute;
- 5) when the second birth attendant is a health professional regulated under the *RHPA, 1991*, she/he remains responsible to her/his college for care provided;
- 6) if the second birth attendant does not have appropriate liability insurance, the midwife accepts liability for care provided by the second birth attendant; and
- 7) the midwife's informed choice document will outline her arrangements for the second birth attendant.

¹ See *Guidelines for the Second Birth Attendant*, College of Midwives of Ontario, December 29, 1994.