



DEFINITION OF TERMS

WHAT IS PROCLAMATION?

The *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, its Code and related acts, such as the *Midwifery Act, 1993*, take effect on the date fixed by proclamation. As of that date, all regulations related to the Acts and standards of practice will come into effect. As of proclamation, "midwife" will become a protected title. Only individuals registered with the College of Midwives will be eligible to legally practise midwifery in Ontario and receive funding.

WHAT IS A REGULATION?

Regulations provide details required for an Act to operate. They have the force of law and as such must be approved by the legislature of the provincial government. Each College develops regulations which are reviewed by the Ministry of Health and the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council to ensure public interest perspective before they are approved by the provincial Cabinet. It is difficult to change a regulation once it has been passed through this process. Approved regulations governing the profession of midwifery can be found in Section F.

WHAT ARE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE?

Standards of practice are policies developed by the College to ensure consistent practice of midwifery. Standards support the approved regulations and provide the direction to regulate the practice of midwifery. These midwifery standards have been developed through a process of consensus by members of the Interim Regulatory Council on Midwifery and the Transitional Council. Please refer to Section G for current standards. Changes to standards may be made through the College rather than through the legislative process.

WHAT IS A POLICY?

Policies are developed to provide registered members, Council members and staff with an overall plan respecting the general goals and accepted procedures of the College in such areas as development of standards or communication. For example, the College has had a consistent strong equity policy which has affected the development of its standards of practice.

WHAT IS A GUIDELINE?

Guidelines provide an indication or direction for the execution of policies, standards or regulations. They can provide guidance to members regarding standards of practice parameters.