
MIDWIFERY REGULATORY COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA (MRCNS)

PROFESSIONAL SELF-REGULATION

THE PRIVILEGE TO SELF-REGULATE

Self-regulation recognizes the maturity of a profession and acknowledges its members are capable of governing themselves. It means the government has delegated its regulatory authority to those with the specialized knowledge required to do the job.

A self-regulating profession such as midwifery protects the public interest by setting standards of practice and disciplining members who fail to meet them.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

The ethical standards of care are an essential part of the midwifery profession in Nova Scotia and support the professionalism and success of midwifery in the province. Self-regulation ensures that our members integrate those standards into their everyday practice.

WHAT SETS SELF-REGULATION APART

Professional regulators differ from other organizations such as professional associations. Those organizations are voluntary and further the economic, employment, political, and other interests of their members. Usually, they neither license nor discipline their members.

ESTABLISHING THE COUNCIL

The Midwifery Regulatory College of Nova Scotia (MRCNS) was established in 2009 and is the only regulator of midwives in the province of Nova Scotia.

WHAT WE DO

The Midwifery Act gives us the exclusive right to regulate the midwifery profession on behalf of our members, including:

- Setting the requirements for registration;
- License midwives;
- Developing and maintaining ethical and professional standards;
- Accrediting midwifery education programs and courses;
- Investigating complaints and taking disciplinary action related to incompetent, impaired, or unethical practice;

ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC

A key element of self-regulation is public accountability. We operate in an open and accountable manner, always with the public interest in mind. We communicate with the public regularly about our work and prioritize transparency in everything we do.