Pursuant to the powers vested upon by the Board under Section 4 of Republic Act No. 2644, An Act Regulating the practice of Midwifery and Setting Standards of Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines and for other purposes, and Section 6(a) of Presidential Decree No. 223, the Board of Midwifery, hereby adopts the following rules and regulations necessary for the maintenance of an efficient, ethical, technical, moral and professional standard in the practice of midwifery in the Philippines.

**MIDWIFE'S CODE OF ETHICS**

**PREAMBLE**

The principles and rules of conduct embodied in this Code aim to help midwifery practitioners, as individuals and as a professional group, to pursue and maintain a high level of ethical conduct in the practice of midwifery. They are simply criteria or measures by which a midwife may be guided in her professional conduct and in her relationship with her patients, co-practitioners, members of allied professions and the public in general.

**SECTION I**

The primary objective of the midwifery profession is for its members to render service within the scope of their legitimate functions, having in mind that their patients, regardless of religion, social or economic status, deserve respect as human beings. A midwife should endeavor to deserve the confidence of the patients under her care by rendering to each of them dedicated and selfless service to the full extent of her skill and competence.

**SECTION II**

A midwife should try her best to continually improve her knowledge and skill for the benefit of her patients and to share with her co-practitioners any valuable practical knowledge that she may have gained by experience in the practice of her profession.

**SECTION III**

A midwife is expected to practice on a scientific basis and to desist in the performance of any midwifery procedure which is of doubtful or questionable propriety from the standpoint of medical or scientific principles.
SECTION IV

The midwifery profession should contribute to the safeguarding of public health and should protect itself against the admission into its membership of midwives who are deficient in professional competence and requisite moral character. It is incumbent upon every midwifery practitioner to observe the law, to uphold the honor and dignity of her profession, and to adhere faithfully to professional discipline. It is the professional duty of every midwife to bring to the attention of the proper authority, through legitimate procedures, the illegal or unethical conduct of any co-member of the midwifery profession, without bias or personal animosity, but solely for the maintenance of the good name of the profession as well as public interest and welfare.

SECTION V

A midwife who has accepted a patient under her care should render service to the patient to the best of her ability. She should not neglect the patient under any circumstance within her control.

SECTION VI

A midwife should not compromise her services to the patient under terms or conditions which would impair the quality of patient's care.

SECTION VII

In the practice of midwifery, a midwife must confine the source of her income to the midwifery services she has actually rendered. Her fees should be commensurate with the services performed and, if need be, with the patient's ability to pay. It is highly improper for a midwifery practitioner to pay or receive a commission for referral of patients made to or by her.

SECTION VIII

A midwife's legitimate functions cover performance of midwifery services only to normal pregnant women and normal newborn infants. Accordingly, in a doubtful or difficult case, she should seek consultation or refer such case to a qualified obstetrician or physician. She should not persist in handling the case and thereby risk liability for any injury that may arise.

SECTION IX

A midwife is bound by professional ethics not to reveal any information given by her patient in the course of the patient's care or treatment, whether such information is addressed to her or to the attending physician, unless under the law, she is required to testify on such information to serve the ends of justice.
SECTION X

The ideals of service envisioned by the midwifery profession call for a dedication of the midwife's capabilities not only to individual but also to the community in which she practices to the end that she may be able to contribute to the improvement of the health of her patients and to the health and well-being of her community.

SECTION XI

A midwife should participate in research activities or in any effort of the midwifery profession to improve midwifery training and practice, and to take part in establishing and maintaining conditions of employment conducive to high-quality maternity and infant care.

SECTION XII

As a member of the health team, a midwife should work with interest and concern, together with other members of the health team, in promoting efforts to meet the health needs of the public.

The formulation of a code of midwifery ethics that is complete and all-embracing is not feasible. A registered midwife, in the course of her professional practice, will realize that a code of ethics, however, well it is formulated has certain limitations. The code for instance, may not point out how a midwife may resolve or reconcile a conflict between personal and professional views. The code may not likewise indicate a remedy for resolving conflict that may stem from changing social principles, goals and standards which are held or may later be accepted by the midwifery profession. Such inadequacy of the code ultimately leaves the midwife to herself in deciding what moral principles should govern her course of action when faced with ethical problems in the practice of her profession.

In brief, a code of midwifery ethics, like any other code of professional ethics, cannot be expected to cover in detail all the activities of the midwife. Hence, a midwife is not duly bound to confine herself to the rules set by any adopted code of midwifery ethics. However, it is incumbent upon her to observe at all times the ideals of her profession and to adhere faithfully to the well-recognized unwritten ethical and professional rules generally accepted by the midwifery profession.

SECTION XIII

EFFECTIVITY

This code shall take effect upon approval by the Commission and after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette.
Done in the City of Manila, this 30th day of June, 1988.

RICARDO B. GONZALES, M.D.
Chairman

NORMA JEAN B. BAUTISTA
Member

REMEDIOS C. BATACLAN
Member

ATTESTED:

SALUD M. SCHAGUN
Secretary

Approved as part of the Rules and Regulations governing the practice of Midwifery in the Philippines this 30th day of June, 1988.

JULIO B. FRANCIA, JR.
Commissioner

DOMICIANO C. NATIVIDAD
Associate Commissioner

LUIS S. TOMACRUZ
Associate Commissioner

vinia/
5-16-88