



# SCOPE OF PRACTICE

## INFANT AND PREGNANCY LOSS SUPPORT PERSON

### SERVICES PROVIDED

An Infant and Pregnancy Loss Support Person provides non-medical, physical and emotional support as well as informational assistance before, during, and after pregnancy or infant loss.

### PRENATAL LOSS

Prenatal consultations with pregnant clients and partners in order to obtain a preliminary history and to determine their needs

Provides resources to assist the family and its members

Provides telephone and/or email support as required

Emotional support and comfort (not counselling, which is outside scope)

### LABOUR & BIRTH IN LOSS

Provide compassionate, professional support

Ensure informed consent is practiced, and clients questions are answered

Provides relaxation techniques as required/ requested

Provide suggestions on emotional and mental release/ health/ needs

Provides suggestions and apply methods to promote relaxation, including guidance in breathing techniques

Provides verbal support, affirmation and validation.

An Infant and Pregnancy Loss Support Person must have excellent listening skills

Setup and maintain an environment conducive to the families needs

Provide support and suggestions to the partner or other support persons

Facilitate communication between the family and the medical staff

### POSTPARTUM

Assistance with the families memorial requests

Provide resources on grief, bereavement, recovery, and other related topics associated with loss

Emotional follow-up/support

Referral to appropriate community resources, as needed

### LIMITS TO PRACTICE

An Infant and Pregnancy Loss Support Person does not perform clinical or medical tasks (including, but not limited to, such things as taking blood pressure or temperature, checking fetal heart tones, performing vaginal exams, or postpartum clinical care). Where possible, all informational support rendered will be supported with evidence-based research and qualified resources. The IPL Support Person will provide information on benefits, risks and alternatives rather than their personal advice on all matters. They do not diagnose or prescribe treatments (as per definitions below) and are to refer to a qualified professional wherever possible. The IPL Support Person must also advise their client to inform their primary caregiver prior to using any alternative therapies.

Where the IPL Support Person has additional training in areas outside of this set out scope of practice, they should refer to that profession and their scope of practice, and determine if it is appropriate to combine the roles. In any event, they are to clearly inform clients of such training, the limits of their ability to offer knowledge and/or practice in this area, and that any additional services offered is separate from their training as a IPL Support Person. The IPL Support Person is also encouraged to clearly define this situation to any healthcare provider, funeral director, or community support person they encounter in order to avoid confusion regarding the IPL Support Person's role and scope of practice