

MIDWIVES ACT
(CHAPTER 139)
DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 13(2)

S 8/55

REVISED EDITION 2012

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

Directions under section 13(2) to regulate the practice of midwives

I. GENERAL DUTIES AND REGISTRATION

1. A midwife shall, within 14 days of the birth, register all births whether or not viable in cases to which she is attending and whether or not she delivers the child herself.
2. A midwife shall keep or cause to be kept a register of cases in which she has been engaged to attend and a delivery register, and both such registers shall be kept up-to-date.
3. A midwife shall, whenever she is actually engaged in the practice of her profession, be scrupulously clean in her person, clothing and equipment.
4. A midwife shall, whenever she has reason to believe either that she has been in contact with fever or infection, or that she herself may be a source of infection, immediately notify the Deputy Registrar of her area.
5. A midwife shall, if circumstances permit, report any abnormality in cases to which she is attending to the nearest registered medical practitioner.

II. DUTIES IN ANTE-NATAL PERIOD, CONFINEMENT AND LYING-IN PERIOD

1. A midwife shall pay regular ante-natal visits to all patients to whom she is attending, and shall encourage them to attend an ante-natal clinic where such attendance appears to be practicable.
2. A midwife shall, if summoned, immediately visit and attend to any mother who is in labour in her area.
3. A midwife shall not, during the second stage of labour of her patient, leave such patient until at least one hour after the expulsion of the placenta and membranes or until after the expiry of such longer time as may, in the circumstances, appear advisable.
4. A midwife shall, before destruction thereof, examine the placenta and membranes in order to ascertain whether any part thereof remains unexpelled.

5. A midwife shall visit every patient to whom she is attending at least twice during the period of 24 hours after confinement and thereafter at least once a day for 7 days.

6. A midwife is responsible for the cleanliness, comfort, diet and care of her patients for a period of 7 days after delivery of the child. The temperature and pulse-rate of the patient shall be taken every day and, in addition, the height of the uterine fundus and the condition of the lochia shall be observed.

7. A midwife shall immediately endeavour to resuscitate a child which is apparently born dead.

8. A midwife shall, as soon as the head of the child is born, clean the child's eyelids and instil such eyedrops as are recommended by the Registrar.

9. A midwife shall dress a child's umbilical cord every day so long as such dressing is required.

10. A midwife is, for a period of 7 days after birth or for such longer period as may in the circumstances appear to be advisable, responsible for the cleanliness and comfort of children in her case and for the establishment and management of breast feeding.

11. A midwife shall, where such attendance appears to be practicable, encourage mothers in her care to attend a post-natal clinic between the seventh and eighth week after delivery and to bring their children to an infant welfare clinic.

12. A midwife shall not use or prescribe any drugs or medicine except those permitted by the Registrar.