



What action the Council will take

When the Council receives a notification about a midwife, it makes inquiries and decides what if any action it needs to take. There are a number of actions the Council can take, including initiating a competence review, imposing conditions on practice or suspending a midwife pending review if there is a belief that the midwife's practice poses a risk of serious harm. If a complaint relates to a midwife's conduct rather than her competence the Council may refer the midwife to a professional conduct committee. The purpose of the PCC is to investigate matters to determine if there is a case to be heard.

Suspended Practitioners

On some occasions, either the Council or the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal finds that there are concerns serious enough to warrant suspension of the midwife from practice. You can find a list of recently suspended midwives on this website.

Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal

The Tribunal is an independent judicial authority whose members are appointed by the Minister of Health. Charges are brought against a health practitioner by either the Director of Proceedings for the Health and Disability Commissioner or a Professional Conduct Committee of a responsible authority. When a charge of professional misconduct is found to be proven, the Tribunal usually orders its decision be published on the relevant authority's website so everyone can see that health professionals are accountable for their practice. It also makes it clear to both the public and to the profession what the standard of practice reasonably to be expected of a health professional.