

Compassionate Inquiry Code of Ethics for Practitioners

Autonomy and Dignity of All Persons

- Respects the privacy, rights and diversity of all persons
- Shows sensitive regard for the moral, social, religious beliefs and standards, and sexual orientation of clients, and avoids imposing his or her personal beliefs or practices on others
- Takes a stand against oppression and discrimination
- Rejects all forms of harassment and abuse
- Maintains appropriate therapeutic boundaries at all times
- Recognizes the position of power the CI Practitioner has with the client within the therapeutic relationship
- Does not exploit this relationship for any form of non-therapeutic or personal gain, benefit or advantage
- Never enters into a sexual relationship with a current client or someone with whom the client has a significant personal relationship (e.g., child's parent)
- Does not enter into a sexual relationship with a former client or course participant who acted as "client" unless at least two years have elapsed since the professional relationship and/or training ended and it can be demonstrated that there is no longer a power imbalance between the CI Practitioner and the client
- If a practitioner is intending to engage in a sexual relationship with a former course participant who acted as "client" after 2 years has elapsed, this relationship must be brought to the attention of Gabor and Sat Dharam
- Does not enter into a therapeutic relationship and/or accept a client with whom the practitioner already has a personal relationship and where professional boundaries may not be sustained
- Accepts responsibility for boundary crossings and violations when they occur
- Takes immediate steps to address and rectify a boundary violation when it occurs

Excellence in Professional Practice

- Works in the best interests of clients; contributes personal skills and competencies
- Recognizes professional limitations. When indicated, provides referrals, recommends additional opinions, therapy and/or services
- Pursues ongoing professional and personal growth
- Conducts professional practices with honesty and integrity
- Completes appropriate case notes and record-keeping for each CI session with a client
- Maintains privacy and confidentiality with respect to clients. Only discloses confidential information when either authorized by the client or required to do so by law
- Avoids public discussions or comments about clients that could reasonably be seen as revealing confidential or identifying information
- Recognizes and discloses conflicts of interest that arise in the course of professional duties and activities, and resolves these in the best interest of the client
- Refrains from counselling an individual where the practitioner's professional objectivity may be compromised
- Continues to provide services to the client until they are no longer required or wanted; until another suitable practitioner has assumed responsibility; or until reasonable notice of termination of care has been provided to the client
- Recognizes that family, community, society and the environment are important factors in the health of the client
- Is considerate of the concerns of the client's family and cooperates with them as appropriate in the client's interest

- Commits themselves to the evolving process of compassionate and ethical thinking and to finding compassionate, ethical and fair solutions to problematic situations
- Assumes responsibility for their own emotional, mental, and physical health. Actively makes self-care a priority
- Has a consistent personal practice of self-inquiry, self-reflection, contemplation and/or meditation
- Takes responsibility for one's triggers and does not make it about the other person
- Treats clients equally, fairly, without favouritism, and examines any positive or negative bias towards any individual. Generates compassion and attention for each client
- Seeks assistance with a peer or mentor for a CI session when any bias, trigger or issue interferes with one's judgement and/or performance with a client, and/or when a complaint is received or communicated
- Recognizes and respects the diversity to be found among clients and upholds the value of freedom of expression
- Is punctual and prepared for sessions with clients

Responsible Communication

- Does not use derogatory comments or racial slurs when relating to clients
- Communicates with compassion and understanding
- Communicates acceptance, non-judgement, respect

Support for Colleagues

- Respects colleagues, members of other disciplines, and health care practitioners affiliated with the client

Integrity

- Openly informs clients about options, limitations of professional services, fees, availability, scope of practice and potential risks and benefits
- Recognizes and strives to challenge any professional and personal bias
- Consults peers and/or mentors on any ethical dilemmas

Responsible Citizenship

- Participates in community as a responsible citizen, mindful of one's role as a trusted professional

Responsible Research

- Conducts only basic and applied research that potentially benefits society, and does so safely, ethically and with the informed consent of all participants

Professional Conduct

- Behaves in a manner that is beyond reproach
- Relies on ability and integrity to build a professional reputation
- Refrains from endorsing any service or product for personal gain. A practitioner may not pressure a client into purchasing products, ensuring that any sale or recommendation made by the practitioner is in the client's interest only. If recommending a product to a client that is sold in any location associated with the practitioner, the practitioner advises the client that s/he may purchase the product elsewhere
- Collaborates with other CI Practitioners and health professionals in the care and well-being of clients