

# Compassionate Inquiry Code of Ethics for Practitioners

## Autonomy and Dignity of All Persons

1. Respects the privacy, rights and diversity of all persons
2. 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
3. Takes a stand against oppression and discrimination
4. Rejects all forms of harassment and abuse
5. Maintains appropriate therapeutic boundaries at all times
6. Recognizes the position of power the CI Practitioner has with the client within the therapeutic relationship
7. Does not exploit this relationship for any form of non-therapeutic or personal gain, benefit or advantage
8. 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)
9. Does not enter into a sexual relationship with a former client unless at least two years has elapsed since the professional relationship ended or was terminated and it can be demonstrated that there is no longer a power imbalance between the CI Practitioner and the client
10. If a practitioner is intending to engage in a sexual relationship with a former course participant after 2 years has elapsed, this relationship must be brought to the attention of Gabor and Sat Dharam
11. 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
12. Accepts responsibility for boundary crossings and violations when they occur
13. Takes immediate steps to address and rectify a boundary violation when it occurs

## Excellence in Professional Practice

1. Works in the best interests of clients; contributes personal skills and competencies
2. Recognizes professional limitations. When indicated, provides referrals, recommends additional opinions, therapy and/or services
3. Pursues ongoing professional and personal growth, including at least 6 mentoring or supervision sessions in the first 2 years of clinical practice
4. Conducts professional practices with honesty and integrity
5. Completes appropriate case notes and record-keeping for each CI session with a client
6. 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
7. Avoids public discussions or comments about clients that could reasonably be seen as revealing confidential or identifying information
8. 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
9. Refrains from counselling an individual where the practitioner's professional objectivity may be compromised
10. 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
11. Recognizes that family, community, society and the environment are important factors in the health of the client
12. Is considerate of the concerns of the client's family and cooperates with them as appropriate in the client's interest
13. Commits themselves to the evolving process of compassionate and ethical thinking and to finding compassionate, ethical and fair solutions to problematic situations

14. Assumes responsibility for their own emotional, mental, and physical health. Actively makes self-care a priority
15. Has a consistent personal practice of self-inquiry, self-reflection, contemplation and/or meditation
16. Takes responsibility for one's triggers and does not make it about the other person
17. Treats clients equally, fairly, without favouritism, and examines any positive or negative bias towards any individual. Generates compassion and attention for each client
18. 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
19. Recognizes and respects the diversity to be found among clients and upholds the value of freedom of expression
20. Is punctual and prepared for sessions with clients

### **Responsible Communication**

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

### **Support for Colleagues**

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

### **Integrity**

1. Openly informs clients about options, limitations of professional services, fees, availability, scope of practice and potential risks and benefits
2. Recognizes and strives to challenge any professional and personal bias
3. 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**

1. Behaves in a manner that is beyond reproach
2. Relies on ability and integrity to build a professional reputation
3. Refrains from endorsing any service or product for personal gain
4. Collaborates with other CI Practitioners and health professionals in the care and well-being of clients