

CODE OF ETHICS

(INTERIM POLICY)

Preamble

Yoga therapists who are members of IAYT, including IAYT-certified yoga therapists and yoga therapists involved in training programs, must be committed to responsible and ethical practice, to their own professional and personal growth, and to contributing to the growth and development of the field of yoga therapy. In furtherance of these commitments, they agree to be bound by the following Code of Ethics.

A. Commitment to the Client or Student

I WILL

1. Respect the rights and dignity of each client or student.
2. Provide my services in a nondiscriminatory manner.
3. Keep the client informed by explaining practices and recommendations and make only realistic statements regarding the benefits of yoga therapy.
4. Protect the confidentiality of information acquired in the course of client care.
5. Maintain professional boundaries in relationships with clients or students and avoid any relationships that may exploit practitioner–client or teacher–student trust.
6. Keep accurate records of each client’s history and treatment.
7. Treat only within my level of skill and knowledge.
8. Provide the highest quality of care and make timely referrals to other healthcare professionals as appropriate.
9. Refrain from treating clients if I am unable to safely and effectively treat due to substance abuse, physical, and/or psychological impairment.
10. Seek appropriate assistance for any personal problems or conflicts that impair my ability to practice.
11. Bill clients and third-party payers accurately and fairly.
12. Neither receive nor pay a commission for referral of a client.
13. Not initiate sexual contact with a current client or student after the practitioner–client or teacher–student relationship is established.
14. Be mindful that engaging in sexual contact with a former client or student can cause egregious harm and may be exploitative of the trust established during the professional relationship due to the inherent power imbalance involved in the practitioner–client or teacher–student relationship. Therefore, I will exercise extreme caution in entering into any type of personal relationship with a former client or student.

B. Commitment to the Profession

I WILL

1. Work to promote high standards for the profession.
2. Provide accurate, truthful, and non-misleading information in connection with any IAYT application, requirement, or disciplinary investigation or proceeding.
3. Comply with all IAYT policies that pertain to my membership and certification status.
4. Stay abreast of new developments in the field of yoga therapy through educational activities and study.
5. Not malign colleagues or other professionals.

C. Commitment to the Public

I WILL

1. Provide accurate information regarding my education, training and experience, professional affiliations, and certification status.
2. Use only the appropriate professional designations for my credentials, including any designations required or granted by IAYT.
3. Advertise only accurate, truthful, non-misleading information, and refrain from making public statements on the efficacy of yoga therapy that are not supported by the generally accepted experience of the profession.
4. Respect the integrity of other forms of healthcare and other health and wellness traditions, and seek to develop collaborative relationships to achieve the highest quality of care for individual clients.

