

IAPTC CODE OF ETHICS

The Code of Ethics contains the principles of conduct in regards to the relationship between the members of the International Association of Professional Therapists and Coaches (IAPTC) on the one hand, and its members (coach/mentor and his/her clients) on the other hand. Violation of these principles can affect the interests of all the members of the association.

The principles set out below are based on the following fundamental norms:

1. Human beings are autonomous and creative by nature. Each individual creates his own life.
2. All human beings are equally worthy, regardless of race, faith, belief, nationality, gender, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation.
3. Each individual has the right, the responsibility, and the potential to make his own decisions and to take responsibility for his own life.
4. Each person is responsible for his personal and professional development, as well as for the pace of the development itself.

Sections of the Code of Ethics

I. RESPONSIBILITY

1. In their professional activities, coaches strive for the highest standards of training.
2. They must be aware of the consequences of their professional actions and they should be fully responsible for them.
3. Each mentor is obliged to make efforts, as long as the training is used as intended with a defined purpose.

II. COMPETENCE

1. Coaches offer only those services that are within their professional competence and that are therefore consistent with their qualifications and experience.
2. They are aware of their professional constraints and, if necessary, appeal to other professionals for consultation or redirection.
3. In these types of practical activity, where there are not yet firmly established standards, mentors take all measures to ensure the well-being of their clients.
4. They shall endeavour to be aware of any scientific and practical researches and training methods in the field of their activities.
5. If mentors have personal problems of this type that are manifested to such an extent that they influence the performance of their professional duties, they turn for professional assistance in order to clarify the situation.
6. Coaches make efforts and look for ways to increase their competence through

all kind of participations in seminars, trainings, scientific forums and also throughout the use of current specialised literature.

III. CLIENT RELATIONS

1. Therapists respect the privacy of each client and take care to protect their right to self-determination, including the refusal of further participation in the training/course.
2. Coaches inform clients or their representatives about planned and unplanned therapeutic activities in the most understandable way, so that they can decide for themselves whether or not they want to participate in them.
3. The attitude towards clients should promote their autonomy and self-determination, avoiding types of behaviour that develop dependence.
4. Coaches are aware of all relationships that can harm professional judgment and increase the risk of exploiting the therapeutic situation.
5. Coaches do not exploit their clients financially, psychologically or in any other way that is visible to the objective observer and detrimental to the client.
6. Sexual intimacy with the client is unethical, unacceptable and not tolerated by the professional community.

IV. RELATIONSHIPS WITH TRAINEES

1. Coaches are responsible to conduct their relations with trainees according to the ethical principles valid for the clients.
2. Coaches set as their main goal the professional and personal development of the clients.
3. The coach directs the trainee to another colleague if the interests and manner of application of the knowledge require knowledge and skills beyond the training

and capabilities of the coach.

4. Coaches, who will train or engage in any similar activity of courses, shall carefully monitor whether their participation will lead to an undesirable impression that the course does not meet the work requirements of the professional community.

V. RELATIONS WITH COLLEAGUES

1. Coaches respect the professional competence, duties and responsibility of all their colleagues and representatives of other similar professions.

2. They refrain from unobjective judgments about their colleagues and their work.

VI. CONFIDENTIALITY

1. Coaches have an obligation to keep in secret the information received from their clients in the course of their work with them.

2. They shall share such information with others only with the consent of the client or his/her legal representative.

3. An exception to this rule can only be made in cases where the coach decides that with behaviour and thoughts, the client endangers the lives and health of other people. In such cases, the information must be transmitted only to those who can take adequate action in the given situation.

4. The agreement shall specify how confidentiality is ensured: who will have access to these materials and how long they will be stored.

5. In cases of video camera recording or some other digital device, the client's consent is mandatory.

6. If a client or a participant in a group does not confirm his/her consent, the material shall be destroyed immediately.

7. When necessary, coaches shall inform contracting entities and clients about the rules and requirements in terms of respect of confidentiality under this Code of Ethics.

VII. TEACHING METHODS, PRACTICES AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Mentoring programmes are planned on the basis of a well-defined problem and after consideration of appropriate methods and alternative procedures.

2. It is not desirable for coaches to use methods with unknown or unsatisfactory parameters.

4. Coaches strive to formulate their messages, conclusions and other similar statements in such a way that they cannot be misunderstood or used.

5. Conclusions must be formulated in such a way as to be understandable to the client.

VIII. PUBLIC SPEECHES

1. Public statements, announcements, information and similar ones made by the coach are aimed at helping people to implement well-informed and free choices.

- When speaking as specialists, they strive for objectivity, clarity, and accuracy.
- Coaches inform about the specifics of their professional activity in such a way as to avoid the misunderstanding from the audience of the specifics of their activity or profession.
- Public statements appearing as self – advertising are avoided.
- By offering their services, coaches provide only the following information: name, address, telephone, education, working hours and specialty.

- Course adverts may contain information explaining the content and objectives of the course.
- The advertisement should not look like an advertising and should not contain promises of some specific results.

IX. PROCEDURES RELATING TO BREACHES OF THE CODE OF ETHICS

1. Violations of the CE (the Code of Ethics) are obligatory considered, regardless of whether they constitute legal violations and are prosecuted under other laws.
2. Evidence of violations of ethical norms can come from both clients, colleagues or trainees (training colleagues).
3. If a regular member of the IAPTC receives information about a breach of ethical norms from a colleague (a member of the association), s/he is obliged to try to solve out the problem between them by talking to the affected party and his/her colleague.
4. If this proves to be impossible, or if the infringement is so great that the member who has received the information considers that it exceeds his/her competence, s/he shall address the relevant authorities in the established order.
5. Signals for violations must be submitted in writing, with detailed arguments for the infringements of the CE. They shall be signed with the full name and address of the applicant. Anonymous or oral complaints shall not be considered.
6. The signals are examined by the IAPTC Managing Board, which presents its conclusions and proposals in writing on the submitted ethical case.
7. Within one month of the submission of the complaint, the Managing Board of the IAPTC shall communicate its position.
9. Decisions related to the membership in the IAPTC of a delinquent member

may be taken only by the General Assembly, according to the Statute.

10. All investigations and conclusions shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed without the consent of the parties concerned.