

Connecticut Holistic Health Association Code of Ethics

The Connecticut Holistic Health Association (CHHA) is an organization of healthcare professionals united to promote, educate, and support the practice and philosophy of holistic healthcare as a practice which seeks optimal integration of body, mind, emotion, and spirit.

Members of CHHA have responsibilities to patients/clients/practitioners, first and foremost, as well as to society, to other healthcare professionals, and to self. The specifications of a Code of Ethics enable CHHA to clarify to current and future members and to those served by the CHHA membership the nature of the ethical responsibilities held in common by the membership. This Code of Ethics establishes principles that define the ethical and professional behavior of the CHHA members. All members of CHHA are required to adhere to this Code of Ethics which serves as a basis for addressing any complaints or concerns initiated against its members.

A. The Therapeutic Relationship

1. The primary responsibility of all CHHA members is to treat all patients/clients with dignity and respect.
2. Treatments offered will at all times be in the best interest of the patient/client.
3. Patients/clients will have the opportunity to participate in the decisions regarding their care, including decisions about conventional, complementary, and alternative modalities.
4. Patients/clients have the right to terminate their treatment at any time without prejudice.
5. Members do not condone or engage in discrimination based on age, color, culture, disability, ethnic group, gender, race, sexual orientation, marital status, or socioeconomic status.
6. Members will charge reasonable fees for their services and provide full and clear explanations of them to patients/clients before entering into a professional relationship.
7. Members do not accept payment for referrals.
8. Members are aware of their influential position with respect to patients/clients and avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of such persons.
9. Members will make every effort to avoid dual relationships with patients/clients that could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation. When a dual relationship cannot be avoided, members will take appropriate professional precautions to ensure that the service provided is consistently and completely in the best interest of the patient/client.

B. Confidentiality

1. Patients/clients have the right to expect confidentiality and to be provided with an explanation of its limitations including supervision and/or treatment professionals; and to obtain clear information about their treatment, including treatment records.
2. Members will respect their patients/clients right to privacy and avoid illegal and unwarranted disclosures of confidential information.
3. Information is shared with other professionals from whom the patient/client is or was receiving treatment only upon written consent of the patient.

C. Professional Responsibility

1. Members render their services within the boundaries of their competence. When the need(s) of the patient/client cannot be met within those boundaries, the member will inform the patient of such limitation(s) and offer referrals.
2. Members recognize the need for continuing education as well as competence and expertise within their field of practice.
3. When advertising, members ensure that their services, and results which can be expected from treatment, are accurately and fairly depicted avoiding false, misleading or deceptive statements.
4. Guarantees with regard to improvement or cure will not be made.

It is understood that, as a condition of membership, CHHA members will adhere to these principles in addition to the principles of any other professional organization to which they belong.

Revised Oct 29, 2003, CHHA Ethics Committee