



Irish Association of Creative Arts Therapists
Professional Representative Body for Music Therapy, Art Therapy, Dramatherapy & Dance
Movement Therapy

CODE OF ETHICS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** All members of The Association agree to abide by the following guidelines for ethical practice in the Creative Arts Therapies. It is recognised, however, that not all ethical dilemmas arising in the work of therapy can be anticipated or resolved by this code. The development of standards for The Association is ongoing.
- 1.2** The code of ethics may be amended by formal motion adopted by the accredited membership at an AGM.
- 1.3** Members of The Association need to judge which parts of this code apply to particular situations in their work. They may also have to decide between conflicting responsibilities in accordance with the primary principle of commitment to the well-being and dignity of the client.
- 1.4** A therapist shall always act in the best interests of the client. This should include:
- 1.4.1** Respecting the client's values and supporting the client's right to self-determination and autonomy.
 - 1.4.2** Respecting and upholding the confidentiality of the client.
 - 1.4.3** Ensuring privacy for the client in therapy, and, as far as possible, in matters related to it, such as in record-keeping and in supervisory discussions or consultation with colleagues.
 - 1.4.4** Ensuring that materials produced by a client within a session (e.g. images, objects etc.) are kept in a safe and confidential environment, for a minimum of three years where practical, or shredded or returned to the client, as appropriate.
 - 1.4.5** It is the responsibility of the therapist to ensure that consent should be sought to share information for reports and referrals. Such consent should be understood and freely given by the client and/or legal guardian.
 - 1.4.6** When making referrals or writing reports mutually agreed with the client, information may be shared with the client's permission.
- 1.5** The therapist, being mindful of the power and influence that he or she may hold in relation to the client, shall conduct his or her professional affairs

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in a satisfactory manner both during and beyond the duration of therapy. This will include:

1.5.1 Availing of ongoing supervision /consultative support /clinical guidance, as appropriate, as a means towards ensuring best practice for client and therapist. This would include engaging in appropriate levels of CPD e.g. further training, conference attendance, journal publication, participation in council, sub-committees, and professional association.”

1.5.2 Refraining from exploiting the client emotionally, sexually, financially, socially or in any other way.

1.5.3 Not engaging in sexual relations with the client and taking due care that he or she does not exploit the ex-client, emotionally, sexually, financially, socially or in any other way beyond the termination of therapy.

1.5.4 Refraining from working in a therapeutic session while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, unless prescribed by a medical practitioner.

1.5.5 Refraining from working in a therapeutic session unless mentally, emotionally and physically fit to do so.

1.5.6 Refraining from delegating duties to unregistered persons, except in the case of therapy students, in which case full responsibility must be assumed by the therapist for that delegation.

1.5.7 Refraining from committing any criminal act in the practice of his or her work.

1.5.8 Ensuring safety of equipment for both client and therapist.

1.5.9 Having appropriate professional indemnity insurance cover.

1.5.10 Providing suitable premises and conditions for the treatment of clients.

*This Code of Ethics applies to Professional Accredited members only. It is updated on an annual basis. It may be used for insurance purposes **ONLY** by current fully registered accredited Creative Arts Therapists.

Associate, Student or Organisational members' **MAY NOT** furnish this Code of Ethics for insurance purposes.

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