

# European College of Hypnotherapy

The College is a representative organisation within the  
**GENERAL HYPNOTHERAPY STANDARDS COUNCIL**  
**GHSC**

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## CODE OF ETHICS

I undertake to:

- 1 provide service to clients solely in those areas in which I am competent to do so and for which I carry relevant professional indemnity insurance
- 2 remain aware of my own limitations and wherever appropriate, be prepared to refer a client to another practitioner (regardless of discipline) who might be expected to offer suitable treatment
- 3 ensure that wherever a client is seeking assistance for the relief of physical symptoms, the client will be advised to contact a registered Medical Practitioner, unless that has already occurred
- 4 confirm that I will never knowingly offer advice to a client which either conflicts with or is contrary to that given by the client's registered Medical Advisor/s. (If you have any doubts or concerns with regard to a client's prescribed medication, with the client's permission, contact the medical advisor personally).
- 5 accept that any client referred to me by a registered Medical Practitioner (or other relevant agency) remains the clinical responsibility of the Medical Practitioner (or agency) and therefore I agree to keep that Medical Practitioner (or agency) suitably informed of the client's progress
- 6 maintain strict confidentiality within the client/therapist relationship, always provided that such confidentiality is neither inconsistent with the safety of the client's family members or other members of the public nor in contravention of the laws of the land
- 7 ensure that client notes and records be kept secure and confidential and that the use of computer records remain within the Data Protection Act
- 8 obtain written permission from the client (or if appropriate, the client's parent/s or legal guardian/s) before either recording client sessions or discussing undisguised cases with any person whatsoever. ("Recording" in this context meaning any method other than the usual taking of written case notes. "Undisguised" in this context meaning cases in which material has not been sufficiently altered in order to offer reasonable anonymity to all relevant parties)
- 9 take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of the client and any person who may be accompanying them
- 10 ensure that my workplace and all the facilities offered to both clients and their companions, will be in every respect suitable and appropriate for the service provided
- 11 refrain from using my position of trust and confidence to:
  - a. exploit the client emotionally, sexually, financially, or in any other way whatsoever. (Should either a sexual or financial relationship (ie other than the payment of fees, for the purchase of books, tapes or other relevant products) develop between either the therapist and client or members of their respective immediate families, the therapist must immediately cease to accept fees, terminate treatment consistent with clause 12 below and refer the client to another suitable therapist at the very earliest opportunity).
  - b. touch the client in any way that may be open to misinterpretation. (Before employing tactile induction or deepening techniques, both an explanation should be given and permission received).
- 12 terminate treatment at the earliest moment consistent with the good care of the client
- 13 not permit considerations of religion, nationality, gender, marital status, age, disability, politics, or social standing to adversely influence client treatment
- 14 disclose full details of all relevant memberships, training, experience, qualifications, and appropriate avenues of complaint to clients, upon request
- 15 make no claim to hold specific qualifications unless such claims can be fully substantiated. (In the absence of appropriate medical qualifications, do not utilise the title "Doctor" in a manner

- that may mislead any member of the public to believe you to be medically qualified, and the title must be clearly defined by a suitable qualifying statement).
- 16 explain fully to clients in advance of any treatment, the fee levels, precise terms of payment and any charges which might be imposed for non-attendance or cancelled appointments. (Whilst not obligatory, written material is preferable to verbal statements as this is less likely to give grounds for misunderstanding should any dispute between client and therapist subsequently develop).
- 17 present all services and products in an unambiguous manner (to include any limitations and realistic outcomes of treatment) and ensure that the client retains complete control over the decision to purchase such services or products
- 18 conduct myself at all times in accord with a professional status and in such a way so as neither to undermine public confidence in the process or profession of hypnotherapy, nor bring the College into disrepute
- 19 ensure that all advertising complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice, and accords with the British Advertising Standards Authority
- 20 obtain the consent of an appropriate adult (ie parent or legal guardian) before conducting treatment with clients who are either under the age of majority or are classified as Special Needs, (Wherever possible, an appropriate adult should be present during such sessions).

#### RESEARCH ETHICS:

(For all practical purposes, a "research subject" should be considered synonymous with a "client" and consequently, all relevant Clauses within this "code of ethics" remain applicable. Of extra importance is the need on the part of the "researcher" to:

- 21 accept that all participation by "subjects" must be on a completely voluntary basis and that no "pressure" of any type should be exerted in order to secure participation.
- 22 ensure that that proper consent has been obtained prior to the commencement of any research project. This is especially so in the case of "minors" or Persons with Special Needs. (This does not apply where general research of a purely statistical nature is carried out).
- 23 maintain complete openness and honesty with regard to both the purpose and nature of the research being conducted
- 24 consider any potential adverse consequences to the "subject" as a result of any intended research project
- 25 provide, where relevant, for the ongoing care of participants with regard to any adverse effects that might arise as a consequence of, and within a reasonable time period after, their involvement within any research project

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