

CAOT Code of Ethics

This Code of Ethics has been published and distributed by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists to guide and assist the members in meeting and maintaining proper standards of professional conduct. The Code of Ethics shall be construed as a general guide and not a denial of the existence of other duties equally imperative and other rights not specifically mentioned.

Certain terms used in the Code require definition as follows:

"Member" means an Individual or Life Member of the Association and any person eligible for Individual Membership in the Association. "Client" means a person to whom a member renders professional services.

Article One

The member shall possess the qualities of integrity, loyalty, reliability and shall maintain a standard of professional competency as required by the profession, and shall at all times demonstrate behaviour which reflects the member's professional interest and attitude.

Article Two

The welfare of the client shall be the primary concern of the member. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, in furtherance of this goal the member shall:

- a. provide service at the highest possible level of professional skill;
- b. demonstrate respect for the client and appreciation of the particular need of the client;
- c. respect confidentiality of all client information;
- d. report to the appropriate authority any alleged unethical conduct or inappropriate practice of occupational therapy of another member.

Article Three

A member shall recognize and accept responsibility to the relevant employing agency, to other health care colleagues, and to the community at large, and furthermore thereof shall:

- a. maintain comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date records of professional activities which include the nature, extent, duration and outcome of occupational therapy intervention;
- b. co-operate and maintain appropriate communication with other health care colleagues or services dealing with the client in order that the combined desired results are achieved in the treatment of that client;
- c. be professionally responsible for all treatment and services rendered by the member, or by other personnel including students, who are under the direct supervision of the member;
- d. respect and uphold the dignity of each individual with whom the member is associated within the profession of occupational therapy;
- e. provide no misrepresentation regarding information relating to the practice of the profession of occupational therapy or regarding the provision of occupational therapy services to individual clients;
- f. maintain an appropriate relationship with members of the public in order to facilitate the promotion of the goals and functions of the profession of occupational therapy;
- g. refrain from endorsing any goods or services related to the practice of occupational therapy without having made an objective assessment of those goods and services.

Article Four

The members shall endeavour to maintain and improve their professional knowledge and skill, and in this regard shall maintain a progressive attitude.

Article Five

The members shall recognize and accept their responsibilities to the profession and to professional organizations, and shall do everything within their means to provide for the growth and development of occupational therapy.

Article Six

A member shall be responsible for the prompt identification and proposed resolution of conflicts of interest. If a real or potential conflict of interest arises, the member will take all reasonable steps to resolve conflict of interest by informing all parties of the need to resolve the situation in a manner that is consistent with the code of ethics.

A member shall not exploit any relationship established as a therapist to further their own physical, emotional, financial, political, or business interests at the expense of the best interest of clients. This includes, but is not limited to: soliciting clients of the member's employer for private practice; using coercion or taking advantage of trust or dependency to engage in sexual activities or to initiate/continue treatment of a client where it is ineffective, unnecessary or no longer indicated; breaching an agreement with a client or employer regarding the use of resources for provision of services; securing or accepting significant financial or material benefit for activities which are already awarded by salary or other compensation; and, prejudicing others against a colleague for reasons of personal gain.

❖ Adopted from the British Columbia Society of
Occupational Therapists' Code of Ethics June 1983

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