

CODE OF ETHICS

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*Bioenergetic therapists and trainees respect the **dignity, worth, and uniqueness of all individuals**. They are **committed to furthering and protecting basic human rights** and furthering **human welfare**. They are **concerned for the best interest of their clients**. Their **knowledge and skills** are used in a manner **consistent with these values**.*

Bioenergetic therapists and trainees adhere to the following principles:

RESPONSIBILITY

1. In the practice of Bioenergetic Analysis, **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** maintain the highest standard of the profession in which they are/were trained, adhering to the ethical principles of their licensing or certifying boards.
2. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** take full responsibility for the consequences of their professional behavior and acts. Their private conduct is a personal matter, except when such conduct compromises the fulfillment of professional responsibilities.

COMPETENCE

1. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees**, recognizing the boundaries of their competence and technique, only provide services to and utilize techniques for which they are qualified by training and experience. They refer clients to the appropriate qualified professionals when it is in the interest of the client.
2. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** accurately represent their competence, training, education, experience, and affiliations.
3. **Bioenergetic therapists** acknowledge the need for continuing education, expanding and renewing their knowledge in their field in general, and in Bioenergetic Analysis in particular.
4. They understand that competent professional functioning is profoundly related to their understanding of their own personal issues, which are reflected in the body. They engage in on-going work on these issues.
5. When personal problems or conflicts arise, **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** will not engage in professional activity in which such problems would interfere with effective functioning or would bring harm to clients, trainees, supervisees or

colleagues. They will seek competent professional assistance to determine whether they should suspend, terminate, or curtail their professional activities for the duration of such problems or conflicts.

MORAL AND LEGAL STANDARDS

1. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** avoid any action that will violate or diminish the legal and civil rights of clients or of others who may be affected by their actions.
2. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** do not participate in, condone, or are associated with fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO CLIENTS

1. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** do not practice, condone, facilitate or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, mental or physical handicap, or any other preference of personal characteristic, condition or status.
2. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** make advance financial arrangements that safeguard the best interest of and are clearly understood by the client.
3. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** terminate services to clients when such service is no longer required nor no longer serves the client's needs or interests.
4. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** are continually cognizant of their own needs, and do not exploit relationships with clients, trainees, supervisees, or employees to meet their own needs or for personal advantage.
5. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** avoid relationship or commitments that conflict with the interests of clients.
6. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** make every effort to avoid dual relationships which could impair their professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation. (Dual relationships include treatment of employees, trainees, supervisees, close friends, or relatives.)
7. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** under no circumstances engage in sexual intimacies with their clients. Because of the nature of the therapeutic relationship, bioenergetic therapists and trainees recognize that the act of terminating therapy does not automatically change the relationship. Thus, sex with clients following termination is not condoned.
8. Sexual intimacies with trainees and supervisees are unethical.

9. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** do not condone or engage in sexual harassment (deliberate or repeated comments, gestures or physical contacts of a sexual nature that are considered offensive by the recipient).
10. The practice of Bioenergetic Analysis involves the need to observe the body in order to identify characterological features as reflected in the body, requiring alteration of usual dress. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** approach this issue with utmost sensitivity and concern for the client's dignity and needs for privacy and boundaries. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** take the required time to educate the client as to theory and practice, and to establish an atmosphere of trust. They intervene appropriately, taking into account the client's attitudes, background, history, and character structure.
11. The practice of Bioenergetic Analysis involves physical touching of the client and application of manual techniques. The **Bioenergetic therapist and trainee** secures consent for this dimension of the therapy, preferably in written form.
12. The **Bioenergetic therapist and trainee** execute manual techniques with both ample skill (including an adequate knowledge of the body), and a thorough awareness of the physical condition of the client.
13. When **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** know of an ethical violation by another Bioenergetic therapist in the Bioenergetic society, the **Bioenergetic Therapist** will attempt to resolve the issue by bringing the behaviour to the attention of the accused therapist. If such an informal approach does not bring about a solution, or if the violation is of a serious nature, the matter will be brought to the attention of the local bioenergetic society's ethics committee. The ethics committee has the discretion to act on the following matters: if the ethical violation is of a serious nature and the ethics committee has enough factual information, or the said therapist is being investigated by a state licensing board or judicial agency about these violations.

*All written complaints lodged against a **Bioenergetic therapist** will be considered by the local society.*

*Any written complaint regarding a **Bioenergetic trainer** in the IIBA will be brought to the ethics committee of the IIBA.*

RELATIONSHIPS TO COLLEAGUES

1. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** interact with their colleagues with respect, courtesy, fairness, and good faith.
2. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** do not assume responsibility for the client of another colleague without appropriate communication with that colleague.

CONFIDENTIALITY

1. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** respect the confidentiality of information obtained from persons in the course of their professional activity. They reveal such information only with the consent of the person involved, except in the unusual circumstances in which not to do so would result in a clear danger to self or others.
2. Information obtained through consulting relationships is discussed only for professional purposes and only with persons clearly concerned with the case. Written and oral reports should contain only material germane to the evaluation, and every effort should be made to avoid undue invasion of privacy.
3. **Bioenergetic therapists and trainees** who present client material in lecture or in written works obtain prior consent to do so or adequately disguise identifying information.