

**Below you will find :The Somatic Therapy Center: CODE OF ETHICS 2016.
Please read fully and sign with an electronic signature and return to:
intouch@thesomatictherapycenter.com**

The Somatic Therapy Center: CODE OF ETHICS

The Ethics Code is intended to provide standards of professional conduct that can be applied by the Somatic Therapy Center. The ethical standards set forth rules of conduct for Transformative Touch therapists, trainers, teachers, assistants, and organizers (all hereinafter referred to as "TT therapists").

STC Code of Ethics : Section 1 Preamble

The TT Method offers a holistic form of therapy that connects heart, mind, body, and soul. TT therapists touch with their hands, their hearts and their presence. The client is supported in the open sharing of deeply held thoughts, feelings, beliefs, body-awareness, and self-expression. TT therapists recognize and support their clients' informed self-determination. They see their role as facilitators and guides in their clients' healing and growth. Above all they bring a spirit of kindness and care to their clients and colleagues.

The Somatic Therapy Centers's Ethics Code provides a common set of values upon which TT therapists build their professional work. TT therapists perform many roles such as therapist, teacher, trainer, assistant, organizer, consultant, and supervisor. They work with a common goal of providing healing and improving the quality of life for individuals and the world.

It is the individual responsibility of each TT therapist to aspire to the highest possible standards of conduct. TT therapists respect and protect human and civil rights, and do not knowingly participate in or condone unfair discriminatory practices.

In the process of making decisions regarding their professional behavior, TT therapists must consider this Ethics Code, in addition to State laws and licensing boards' regulations.

The procedures for filing, investigating, and resolving complaints of unethical behavior are described in the Somatic Therapy Center's Ethical Grievance Process and are available from the Center.

The actions the Somatic Therapy Center may take for violation of the Ethics Code include such actions as education; reprimand; censure; termination of certification; and removal of teacher, trainer, organizer or assistant status.

STC CODE OF ETHICS: Section 2 DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS TOWARD THE CLIENT:

1. TT therapists will be professional in attitude and conduct, responsible in relations with clients and students, reliable in agreements and timely in appointment schedules.

2. TT therapists will refrain from providing TT somatic therapy or training sessions and/or presenting any instructional material while either the therapist or the client/student is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

3. a. TT therapists will not enter into sexual intimacies with or make any specific or implied sexual proposition to clients or students before, during, or after any individual or group sessions or any training or workshop. TT therapists will refuse any sexual advancement from any client or student.

b. TT therapists will not accept into therapy, persons with whom the therapist has been sexual in the past. Accepting students into a training or workshop with whom any staff member has been sexual will not occur when another training option is available. When another option is not available, alternative staff will be made available for the student's supervision and training. When such multiple roles are unavoidable, the trainer/teacher is responsible for providing careful screening, management, supervision, and evaluation for the student.

c. TT therapists will wait a minimum of two (2) years after terminating a professional relationship before initiating sexual intimacies with former clients or students. The TT therapist who engages in such activities after the two years following cessation or termination of treatment or training bears the burden of demonstrating that there has been no exploitation, in light of all relevant factors, including:

- (1) the amount of time that has passed since therapy or training terminated;
- (2) the nature and duration of the therapy or training;
- (3) the circumstances of termination;
- (4) the client's or student's personal history;
- (5) the client's or student's current mental status;
- (6) the likelihood of adverse impact on the client or student and others, and
- (7) any statements or actions made by the therapist during the course of therapy or training suggesting or inviting the possibility of a post termination sexual or romantic relationship with the client or student.

4. TT therapists will introduce prospective clients/students to the techniques of Transformative Touch including the use of touch so that potential clients/students can make informed decisions about entering therapy or training. TT therapists agree to maintain appropriate documentation of informed consent according to the laws of the State.

5. TT therapists will use physical touch in a therapeutic context consciously and non-sexually. TT therapists are skilled in using a continuum of touch ranging from no touch to intentional touch and movement. They inform their clients that the client may request that touch be suspended or that a session be stopped for any reason at any time. TT therapists work only with clients who are fully clothed. They do not touch genitalia. TT therapists agree to obtain clients'/students' consent and to act with concern for their safety, growth, and awareness of boundaries.

STC Code of Ethics: Section 3

6. A TT therapist will consider the limits of her/his skills and experience before accepting requests for or providing therapeutic or instructional services to potential clients/students. Further, a TT therapist will refuse professional work for which she/he is insufficiently prepared.
7. TT therapists will seek the advise of colleagues or mentors periodically as a routine part of their practice or training. In consultations, confidential information that reasonably could lead to the identification of the client/student is not shared without prior written consent of the client/student.
8. TT therapists will terminate professional services to and relationships with clients/ students when such services are no longer required or no longer serve the needs and interests of the clients/students.
- 9.. TT therapists are responsible to make appropriate referrals and to provide support to clients/ students during termination and transition.
10. TT therapists will terminate services only on just and reasonable grounds as stated below:
 - a. clients' readiness and desire for completion;
 - b. loss of clients' confidence;
 - c. lack of further benefit to the client from continued services or any other termination deemed to be in the clients' best interest;
 - d. evidence of conflict of interest between the therapist and the client/student or of a situation jeopardizing the relationship;
 - e. incitement by the client to perform illegal, harmful, unfair, or fraudulent acts.
11. TT therapists will notify clients/students promptly, (a minimum of two (2) months notice if at all possible), of any anticipated interruption or termination of services. TT therapists will facilitate the transfer, referral, or continuation of services with respect for the clients'/students' preferences and needs together with the TT therapists' professional assessment.
12. TT therapists will refrain from the exploitation of professional relationships for personal gain, whether financial, personal, professional, or for research purposes.
13. TT therapists will uphold the highest standards regarding basic human rights.
14. TT therapists will be cognizant and responsible concerning local and state laws in relation to their practice.

**STC Code of Ethics Section 4
DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS REGARDING THE PRESERVATION OF
CONFIDENTIALITY:**

15. TT therapists will respect, defend, and preserve the privacy of all information gained in private and/or group sessions and during instructional settings.

16. TT therapists will release professional obligations for confidentiality only by written authorization from their clients/students. No information from sessions or records of sessions will be revealed to anyone without properly executed written authorization from clients/students. Such information will be revealed only as specifically authorized by the clients/students. TT therapists further understand that a general, nonspecific, or verbal authorization is not sufficient.

17. TT therapists will preserve the anonymity of clients/students when using information for purposes of teaching, research, and mentoring.

18. TT therapists will require all persons attending teaching sessions to reach written or spoken agreement that respects and maintains the confidentiality of information shared during such sessions.

19. TT therapists will maintain appropriate professional records of all TT client sessions, including names of clients and/or persons attending, dates, fees charged, and such additional notes or documentation as may be appropriate to provide competent professional therapy. A TT therapist further agrees to maintain the security of such records five (5) years after the last sessions with the client.

20. TT therapists will obtain informed written permission from clients/students before taping or filming any session, explaining the intended use of the tape or video and the limits of confidentiality.

21. TT Therapists maintain liability insurance that is adequate and appropriate to their needs

STC Code of Ethics : section 5

DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS TOWARD THE PROFESSION:

22. TT therapists will represent with honesty and accuracy the scope of training, qualifications, and experience with Transformative Touch work in all spoken or written forms. Further, statements concerning status as a student, certified therapist, teacher, or trainer will be in accord with those authorized by the Somatic Therapy Center.

23. TT therapists will monitor all oral and written statements used in the advertisement, description, or explanation of services and the work of Transformative Touch determining that those statements will not:

- a. create unjustified expectations regarding outcomes or benefits;
- b. make false claims about level of competence, training, or certification;
- c. state or imply superiority to other methods or modalities of therapy;
- d. state or imply superiority to other TT practitioners.

24. TT therapists will give credit, when appropriate, to the originators of important ideas and techniques used with TT therapy and teaching.

25. TT therapists will understand and practice Transformative Touch work within the spirit of the principles and letter of this Code. TT therapists further agree to request supervision and guidance when experiencing ambiguity or difficulty with interpretation of what constitutes ethical behavior.

26. TT therapists will directly contact in a constructive and positive manner, any

TT community member about whom the therapist has concerns regarding his/her actions or statements that may conflict with this Code or the principles of Transformative Touch. If at such time satisfactory resolution is not reached, the TT therapist will contact the Somatic Therapy Center's representative regarding how to proceed. Further, the therapist understands the limitations of this process concerning an obligation to maintain confidentiality of clients/students.

27. TT therapists will aid the STC in upholding this Code and cooperate fully with investigation of possible violations. A TT therapist will submit a written response to any allegations or questions of ethical impropriety on his/her part, or of which he/she may be aware or have information. Further, TT therapists understand such written response shall be within ten (10) days after being officially contacted by the STC or its authorized representatives or staff.

STC Code of Ethics : section 6
DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS TO COLLEAGUES:

28. TT therapists will refrain from solicitation of colleagues' clients, whether those colleagues are TT practitioners or those of any other healing arts.

29. TT therapists will encourage appropriate communications and, if appropriate, terminations, between potential clients and their other current or recent therapists, before accepting them as a client.

30. TT therapists will serve colleagues during absence or emergency by providing the same appropriate service and considerations to the colleagues' clients as to their own.

31. TT therapists will refrain from providing sessions/training to any persons with whom they have multiple relationships (defined as performing multiple roles with the same person), which could affect the quality, objectivity, or effectiveness of their work or in any way potentially cause harm. Because the structure of TT training and workshops often creates multiple roles and relationships and thus a high potential for conflict situations, TT therapists agree to be particularly careful and to seek guidance from a mentor about multiple relationships involving current/former clients/students, friends, family, or colleagues.

Given that multiple relationships in training and small community settings are often unavoidable, TT therapists agree to be sensitive to real and ascribed differences in power; be responsible for bringing potential issues into the awareness of those involved; and be available for reasonable processing with those involved.

32. TT therapists will set the interests and well-being of their clients/students above their own interests and, when applicable, above those of employers, family, or those who may inappropriately seek to influence the course of therapy.

33. TT therapists will safeguard their professional independence and integrity by avoiding any situation that could create either the appearance of or an actual conflict of interest in the relationship with clients/students.

34. TT therapists will inform clients/students of any potential conflict of interest and the direction of their obligations and responsibilities.

35. TT therapists will accept no benefit, rebate, or commission for TT sessions or instruction apart from the remuneration to which they are entitled.

36. TT therapists will avoid bartering and/or exchange of services with clients.

I _____ agree that I have read and understood the provisions of this Code.

They represent the standards to which I aspire and will abide to the best of my ability. Further, I agree to be held accountable to my colleagues for any actions that deviate from its standards. For the entire time I choose to maintain association with the Somatic Therapy Center or request recognition as a TT therapist, teacher, trainer, organizer, my agreement with the provisions of this Code will be understood. If I choose to curtail association with the Somatic Therapy Center and/or free myself from the provisions of this Code, I agree to provide immediate written notification to the Somatic Therapy Center and to respect this Code for an additional sixty (60) days to allow my withdrawal to be implemented and completed.

Signed _____ Date _____