

B.C.A.T.A.

British Columbia Acupressure Therapists' Association

CODE OF ETHICS

1. **SOCIAL/ECOLOGICAL CONCERN:** Members recognize their responsibility to the health and evolution of this planet
2. **PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT:** Members conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner, perform only those services for which they are qualified, and represent their education, certification, professional affiliation and their qualifications honestly. They do not in any way profess to practice medicine or psychotherapy, unless licensed by their province.
3. **HEALTH HISTORY AND REFERRALS.** Members keep accurate client records, including profiles of the body/mind health history. They discuss with clients any problem areas that may contraindicate use of acupressure techniques, and refer clients to appropriate medical or psychological professionals when indicated.
4. **PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE:** Members pay close attention to cleanliness, personal hygiene, and professional appearance of self and clothing, of linens and equipment, and of the office environment in general. They endeavor to provide a relaxing atmosphere, giving attention to reasonable scheduling and clarity about fees.
5. **COMMUNICATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY:** Members maintain clear and honest communications with their clients and keep all client information, whether medical or personal, strictly confidential. They clearly disclose techniques used, appropriately identifying each in the scope of their professional practice. They inform clients of legal limits to confidentiality.
6. **INTENTION AND TRUST:** Members are encouraged to establish and maintain trust in the Client relationship and to establish clear boundaries and an atmosphere of safety.
7. **RESPECT OF CLIENTS:** Members respect the client's physical/emotional state and do not abuse clients through actions or words or silence, nor take advantage of the therapeutic relationship. They in no way participate in sexual activity with a client. They consider the clients comfort zone for touch and for degree of pressure, and honour the client's requests as much as possible within personal, professional and ethical limits. They acknowledge the inherent worth and individuality of each person and therefore do not unjustly discriminate against clients nor colleagues.
8. **PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY.** Members present BCATA and other organizations in a professional and compassionate manner. They represent themselves and their practice accurately and ethically. They conduct their business honestly. They do not give fraudulent information nor misrepresent BCATA or themselves to students or clients. They do not act in a manner derogatory to the nature and positive intention of BCATA or other professional organizations.
9. **PROFESSIONAL COURTESY.** Members respect the standards set by BCATA and they respect service marks, trademarks and copyright laws. Professional courtesy includes respecting all ethical professionals in speech, writing, or otherwise, and communicating clearly with others.
10. **PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE:** Members strive for professional excellence through regular assessment of personal and professional strengths and weaknesses, and by continued education and training.