

SOUND THERAPY ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

Together with the Standards of Practice, this document provides a framework within which a Sound Therapy Association (STA) member agrees to work, in order to protect the interests and safety of the public. In addition, the Code of Ethics is intended to protect the interests of STA members in their practice.

Reference to STA Members in the document include members who practice as Sound Therapy Practitioners, Sound Therapists, Sound Healers and any member working with sound as a modality to facilitate an improvement in the overall health & well-being of individuals.

1. Members' Obligations to their Clients

- 1.1 Members shall at all times act in accordance with the STA Standards of Practice.
- 1.2 Members agree to conduct themselves in an honourable and courteous manner and with due diligence in their relations with their clients and the public.
- 1.3 Members shall work in a co-operative and respectful manner with all other healthcare professionals, recognising the particular contribution each makes to the well-being of the client.
- 1.4 Members shall provide equality of treatment to their clients, irrespective of ethnicity, culture, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religious and spiritual beliefs.

2. Professional behaviour

- 2.1 The Sound Therapy Association expects all members to conduct themselves in a professional way, and to be aware of their responsibilities as described in the STA Standards of Practice.
- 2.2 Members must not claim to 'cure', nor guarantee recovery, however, the possible therapeutic benefits of Sound Therapy may be described.
- 2.3 Members have an implicit duty within the law to keep all information (and views formed) about clients entirely confidential between the member and the client concerned.

3. Professional behaviour between therapist and client

- 3.1 Intimate personal relations between a member and their client, or sexual or threatening behaviour, may render a member liable to prosecution under Criminal Law. Even if there is no prosecution, such behaviour is unethical and will be treated as serious professional misconduct by the STA and the relevant disciplinary action taken.
- 3.2 If a member is subject to the unwanted attention of a client it must be reported at the earliest opportunity to the STA Council. All allegations of misconduct involving a member will be examined most carefully. Members should note that, within the therapeutic relationship, it is the responsibility of the member to ensure clarity of relationship and maintain professional boundaries.
- 3.3 Action taken by a member, to persuade the client of another practitioner/therapist or clinic, to patronise him or her (the member), is considered unethical and contravenes the STA Code of Ethics. In consequence, it is advisable that members should apply a clear and proper procedure when exchanging or referring clients or dealing with the clients of another practitioner/therapist or clinic.

4 **General**

- 4.1 Members must not use titles or descriptions to give the impression of medical or other qualifications and must make it clear to their clients that they are not medical doctors and do not purport to have their knowledge or skills, unless they possess them and are governed by statutory regulation.
- 4.2 Members of the STA may belong to other organisation(s) or association(s) provided that they accept their dual membership does not give them immunity from this Code of Ethics.
- 4.3 If any member requires advice on a professional or ethical matter, he or she may consult the STA Council. If the STA Council considers that giving advice may compromise the legal position of the Association, it may refer him or her to an independent adviser.