

Code of Ethics

Introduction

The Code of Ethics of the Czech Association for Art Therapy defines and establishes the ethical behaviour of an art therapist; it represents the basis for addressing contentious issues that may arise in the relationship between art therapist and client or art therapist and another professional.

The Code of Ethics that governs the art therapist's conduct serves to protect the client from any harm that may result due to improperly used procedures on the part of the art therapist.

The Code of Ethics also conducts information for accreditation institutions, employers of art therapists and the interested public.

The Code of Ethics is binding for all members of the Czech Association for Art Therapy.

Mandatory commitment to ethical standards represents an essential condition for the credibility both of art therapists and their professional society.

Code of Ethics

§1 General Principles

The art therapist is obliged to know the laws and mandatory regulations applicable to the performance of his or her profession and adhere to them.

§2 Accountability to Clients

An art therapy relationship is a human relationship, a dialogical relationship, based on trust and mutual information sharing concerning the client's expectations and the possibilities and limits of art therapy on the part of the art therapist.

- 1) Within his/her expertise, the art therapist bears in mind the best interests of his/her client, respects the rights of those who sought his/her help and makes reasonable efforts to ensure the appropriate use of art therapy services following the current state of the art. S/he shall not recommend nor perform any non-indicated professional actions.
- 2) The art therapist is entitled to refuse to care for a client for professional, work or personal reasons. Should s/he reject the client, s/he suggests another form of professional care.
- 3) The art therapist is obliged to inform the client or his/her responsible representative concerning the nature of the issue, the professional procedures intended, the prognosis and other important circumstances.
- 4) When the client enters art therapy, the art therapist is obliged to provide the client with information on his/her rights, roles, expectations and restrictions in the art therapy process.
- 5) Throughout the entire therapeutic relationship the art therapist is responsible for maintaining clear role boundaries.
- 6) The art therapist provides professional services to a person who is in therapeutic care with another professional only based on mutual agreement with that professional or after the termination of care provided by him/her.
- 7) Should for some reason the art therapist interrupt professional assistance, it is his/her obligation to assist the client in providing further care in accordance with his/her possibilities.



8) At the beginning of the provision of services, the art therapist shall state the amount of fees for these services.

§3 Confidentiality

The art therapist shall in no way misuse the client's trust and dependence in their relationship.

- 1) The art therapist respects and protects any and all confidential information obtained during therapeutic work from interviews or artistic expression of the client. Publication or reproduction of the content of an art therapy session (interview and artistic expression) is possible only in justified cases (teaching, research) and only with the written permission of the client.
- 2) In the event of organising clients' exhibitions, the art therapist may, at the client's request, present his/her artefacts accompanied by the author's name and, in agreement with the client, the therapist's or the client's commentary on the work. In both cases, the client's written consent is required.
- 3) If the patient is deprived of legal capacity by a final court decision or his/her legal capacity is limited, in exceptional cases where certain information or examples of the work may significantly contribute to information or scientific knowledge (see Points 1) and 2)), the written consent of patient's legal representative is required.
- 4) The art therapist provides his/her services in an environment that protects the clients' privacy and confidentiality.
- 5) If the client is a minor, the therapist provides any information or consent required under the therapeutic agreement to the legal representative, unless otherwise provided by law. At the same time, the art therapist will take all necessary measures to maintain the confidentiality of his/her relationship with the minor client and avoids providing such information that could adversely affect the course of treatment on the part of legal representative.
- 6) In performing his/her profession, the art therapist is obliged to keep and maintain proper documentation for a reasonable period of time, which is in accordance with the legal regulations of the country and with the proper clinical practice or regulations of the institution in which s/he works. S/he is obliged to ensure its protection against any destruction, theft or misuse.
- 7) When preparing expert reports, opinions, confirmations, recommendations and other forms of public statements, s/he must proceed with due diligence. The information contained in these reports shall be in concordance with the actual situation, be formulated precisely and unambiguously and meet formal requirements. See Point 6.
- 8) The art therapist shall take all necessary measures to protect the client's identity.

§4 Professional Competence

- 1) An art therapist who carries out his/her profession is obliged to undergo further professional training so that s/he is qualified to provide his/her care in a qualified manner. Through educational activities and clinical, educational or other practice, s/he monitors the latest developments in its field and related fields for which it is certified or which are related to his/her profession.
- 2) An art therapist shall recognize the limits of his or her professional abilities and diagnose, treat, and consult clients' problems only if his or her education, training, and experience entitle him/her to do so. S/he shall not perform such procedures that are outside the scope of his/her practice, experience, training and education. Should his or her not suffice or should for any reason s/he not be able or willing to provide professional help, s/he will recommend the client to the care of another specialist or help the client to find other therapeutic services.

3) The art therapist acts within the scope of his/her expertise so that all therapeutic efforts are directed to the client's good.

4) Should the art therapist's personal problem or his or her external or internal conflict interfere with or otherwise affect his or her performance or clinical judgment, s/he will seek appropriate professional advice (supervision) or therapeutic assistance.

5) The art therapist does not enter into parallel relationships with his or her clients, students, assistants, trainees, supervised persons, employees, especially if there is a risk of misuse of the superior position. It is unethical for an instructor or a supervisor to be a therapist to a student or supervised person during the therapeutic relationship or within two years after its conclusion. It is inadmissible to borrow money from a client, participate in business activities with a client, maintain close personal contact or sexual relationship with a client, etc.

6) The art therapist does not use his or her professional relationships to advance his or her interests.

7) The art therapist is obliged to prevent the misuse of art therapy methods or their publication where they could be used without professional preconditions, outside places for training and professional education.

§5 Accountability to the Profession

The art therapist adheres to the standards of his/her profession and, in justified cases, cooperates with the CAA Ethics Committee of the Czech Association for Art Therapy

§6 Accountability to Students and Supervised Persons

As a teacher, supervisor and researcher, the art therapist maintains a high standard of education. In teaching students, s/he uses the latest and scientifically-based information to support the professional growth of his/her students and mentees.

§7 Accountability to Research Participants

The therapeutic activity can increasingly intervene in favour of health and in itself it is open to exploring new possibilities. These are the result of constant and progressive research and experimental activity, which thereby aims to achieve new therapeutic possibilities.

1) The researcher respects the dignity and protects the integrity of the research participants.

2) The researcher knows the laws, regulations and professional standards governing the conduct of research.

3) The researcher shall not include in the research any partial research data, nor publish or reproduce them, nor allow such publication and reproduction without the express written consent of the instructed fully informed client.

Knowledge gained in connection with the performance of art therapy can be used for scientific treatises or studies without the client's consent only where his or her complete and reliable anonymity is ensured.

4) The potential research participant must be informed about the procedures and methods of experimentation, its objectives and his or her participation in the research, including the content and scope and its potential risk, so that s/he can provide or refuse his/her consent freely and to the full knowledge.

5) In principle, no names or initials of patients and no registration numbers are provided on the illustrative material.



6) If the research is in accordance with an ethical standard, the art therapist shall enable another researcher to access the necessary data.

§8 Advertisement of Services

- 1) The art therapist may reasonably inform the public about the services provided.
- 2) When providing information, the art therapist pays attention to its truthfulness, accuracy and unambiguity, especially when providing information about professional qualifications and experience. This also applies to the information on the characteristics of his/her facilities, the qualification of his/her employees, etc.
- 3) Members of the Czech Association for Art Therapy can report publicly to the Association. Any other use of the name, initials or logo of the Czech Association for Art Therapy is possible only with the prior written consent of the Association.

In Prague, on.....

Signature