

General Hypnotherapy Register (GHR)

For the maintenance of good practice, the promotion of unity and the encouragement of continuing development within the profession of Hypnotherapy

www.general-hypnotherapy-register.com

CODE of ETHICS

All Registrants undertake to:

1. provide service to clients solely in those areas in which they are competent to do so and for which they carry relevant professional indemnity insurance
2. remain aware of their own limitations and wherever appropriate, be prepared to refer a client to another practitioner (regardless of discipline) who might be expected to offer suitable treatment
3. ensure that wherever a client is seeking assistance for the relief of physical symptoms, unless having already done so, that the client be advised to contact a registered Medical Practitioner
4. confirm that they will never knowingly offer advice to a client which either conflicts with or is contrary to that given by the client's registered medical advisor/s. (N.B. If the therapist has doubts or concerns with regard to a client's prescribed medication, they should, always with their client's permission, contact the medical advisor personally)
5. accept that any client referred to them by a registered Medical Practitioner (or other relevant agency) remains the clinical responsibility of the Medical Practitioner (or agency) and therefore to agree to keep that Medical Practitioner (or agency) suitably informed of the client's progress
6. maintain strict confidentiality within the client/therapist relationship, always provided that such confidentiality is neither inconsistent with the safety of the client's family members or other members of the public nor in contravention of the laws of the land
7. ensure that client notes and records be kept secure and confidential and that the use of computer records remains within the terms of the Data Protection Act
8. obtain written permission from the client (or if appropriate, the client's parent/s or legal guardian/s) before either recording client sessions or discussing undisguised cases with any person whatsoever. ("Recording" in this context means any method other than the usual taking of written case notes. "Undisguised" in this context means cases in which material has not been sufficiently altered in order to offer reasonable anonymity to all relevant parties). With particular reference to the use of CCTV equipment, all clients must be fully informed when such equipment is in operation and as above, written permission must be obtained prior to the commencement of any client session. (N.B. Wherever possible, the practitioner should ensure that such a recording is vision only - i.e. without sound)
9. take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of the client and any person who may be accompanying them
10. ensure that their workplace and all facilities offered to both clients and their companions will be in every respect suitable and appropriate for the service provided
11. refrain from using their position of trust and confidence to:
 - a) exploit the client emotionally, sexually, financially or in any other way whatsoever. Should either a sexual or financial relationship (i.e. other than for the payment of relevant products or services) develop between either therapist and client or members of their respective immediate families, the therapist must immediately cease to accept fees, terminate treatment consistent with Clause 12 below and refer the client to another suitable therapist at the very earliest opportunity. (N.B. Clarification on dilemmas experienced by therapists in respect of the foregoing may be offered by the GHR on request);

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- b) touch the client in any way that may be open to misinterpretation. (e.g. Before employing tactile induction or deepening techniques, both an explanation should be given and permission received)
12. terminate treatment at the earliest moment consistent with the good care of the client
 13. not permit considerations of religion, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, politics or social standing to adversely influence client treatment
 14. disclose full details of all relevant memberships, training, experience, qualifications and appropriate avenues of complaint to clients, upon request
 15. make no claim that they hold specific qualifications unless such claim can be fully substantiated. (N.B. In the absence of appropriate medical qualifications, no Registrant may utilise the title "Doctor" in a manner that may mislead any member of the public to believe that they are medically qualified and any use of this title must be clearly defined by a suitable qualifying statement.)
 16. explain fully to clients in advance of any treatment, the fee levels, precise terms of payment and any charges which might be imposed for non-attendance or cancelled appointments. (N.B. Whilst not obligatory, written material is preferable to verbal statements as this is less likely to give grounds for misunderstanding should any dispute between client and therapist subsequently develop)
 17. present all services and products in an unambiguous manner (to include any limitations and realistic outcomes of treatment) and ensure that the client retains complete control over the decision to purchase such services or products
 18. conduct themselves at all times in accord with their professional status and in such a way as neither undermines public confidence in the process or profession of hypnotherapy nor brings the GHR into disrepute
 19. a) inform the GHR, in writing, of any complaint (of which they are aware) made against them;
b) inform the GHR, in writing, of any disciplinary action taken against them by any professional body;
c) inform the GHR, in writing, of any criminal offence of which they have been convicted
 20. inform the GHR, in writing, of any alteration in circumstance which would affect either their position or ability as practitioners
 21. notify the GHR, in writing, of any change in practise name, contact address, telephone number or e-mail address, at the earliest convenient moment.
 22. ensure that all advertising shall comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice, accord with the British Advertising Standards Authority and make available all such literature, to the GHR, on request.
- make available all relevant information requested as a result of investigation by any appointed Complaints and Disciplinary Officer without hindrance (whether implied or actual) or unreasonable delay and comply fully with all requirements inherent within any Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure to which they subscribe
wherever possible, obtain the consent of an appropriate adult (i.e. parent or legal guardian) before conducting treatment with clients who are either under the age of majority or are classified as Special Needs. (N.B. Ideally, an appropriate adult should be present during such sessions. N.B.2 Where the client is under the age of 16 and requesting parental / legal guardian consent would violate confidentiality, the therapist should employ an assessment of the client's competency to consent to treatment on their own behalf).