Compassionate Inquiry Code of Ethics for Course Participants

Autonomy and Dignity of All Persons

- Respects the privacy, rights and diversity of all persons
- Shows sensitive regard for the moral, social, religious beliefs and standards, and sexual orientation of clients and course participants, and avoids imposing his or her personal beliefs or practices on others
- Takes a stand against oppression and discrimination
- Rejects all forms of harassment and abuse
- Maintains appropriate therapeutic boundaries at all times
- Does not exploit the relationship to others in the training for any form of non-therapeutic or personal gain, benefit or advantage
- Never enters into a sexual relationship with a current client or someone with whom the client has a significant personal relationship (e.g., child’s parent)
- Does not enter into a sexual relationship with a former client unless at least two years has elapsed since the professional relationship ended or was terminated and it can be demonstrated that there is no longer a power imbalance between the CI participant and the client
- Does not enter into a sexual relationship with a course participant with whom one engaged in dyads/triads until after 2 years has elapsed, and this relationship must be brought to the attention of Gabor and Sat Dharam
- Does not enter into a therapeutic relationship and/or accept a client with whom the participant already has a personal relationship and where professional boundaries may not be sustained
- Accepts responsibility for boundary crossings and violations when they occur
- Takes immediate steps to address and rectify a boundary violation when it occurs

Excellence in Professional Practice

- Works in the best interests of clients; contributes personal skills and competencies
- Recognizes professional limitations. When indicated, provides referrals, recommends additional opinions, therapy and/or services
- Pursues ongoing professional and personal growth
- Conducts professional practices with honesty and integrity
- Completes appropriate case notes and record-keeping for each CI session with a client or peer
- Maintains privacy and confidentiality with respect to clients and peers. Only discloses confidential information when either authorized by the client/peer or required to do so by law
- Avoids public discussions or comments about clients/peers that could reasonably be seen as revealing confidential or identifying information
- Recognizes and discloses conflicts of interest that arise in the course of professional duties and activities, and resolves these in the best interest of the client/peer
- Refrains from counselling an individual where the participant’s professional objectivity may be compromised
- Recognizes that family, community, society and the environment are important factors in the health of the client
- Is considerate of the concerns of the client’s family and cooperates with them as appropriate in the client’s interest
• Commits themselves to the evolving process of compassionate and ethical thinking and to finding compassionate, ethical and fair solutions to problematic situations
• Assumes responsibility for their own emotional, mental, and physical health. Actively makes self-care a priority
• Has a consistent personal practice of self-inquiry, self-reflection, contemplation and/or meditation
• Takes responsibility for one’s triggers and does not make it about the other person
• Treats clients/peers equally, fairly, without favouritism, and examines any positive or negative bias towards any individual. Generates compassion and attention for each client
• Seeks assistance with a peer or mentor for a CI session when any bias, trigger or issue interferes with one’s judgement and/or performance with a client, and/or when a complaint is received or communicated
• Recognizes and respects the diversity to be found among clients/peers and upholds the value of freedom of expression
• Is punctual and prepared for sessions with clients/peers

Responsible Communication
• Does not use derogatory comments or racial slurs when relating to clients
• Communicates with compassion and understanding
• Communicates acceptance, non-judgement, respect

Support for Colleagues
• Respects colleagues, members of other disciplines, and health care practitioners affiliated with the client

Integrity
• Openly informs clients about options, limitations of professional services, fees, availability, scope of practice and potential risks and benefits
• Recognizes and strives to challenge any professional and personal bias
• Consults peers and/or mentors on any ethical dilemmas

Responsible Citizenship
• Participates in community as a responsible citizen, mindful of one’s role as a trusted professional

Responsible Research
• Conducts only basic and applied research that potentially benefits society, and does so safely, ethically and with the informed consent of all participants

Professional Conduct
• Behaves in a manner that is beyond reproach
• Relies on ability and integrity to build a professional reputation
• Refrains from endorsing any service or product for personal gain
• Collaborates with other CI participants in the online training