

# TN Massage Board Code of Ethics

## 0870-1-.19 PROFESSIONAL ETHICAL STANDARDS.

- 1) The Board requires licensees to uphold professional ethical standards that allow for the proper discharge of their responsibilities to those served, that protect the integrity of the profession, and that safeguard the interest of individual clients. To adhere to these professional ethical standards, licensees will:
  - a) Accurately inform clients, other health care practitioners, and the public of the scope and limitations of their discipline; and
    - (1) (b) Acknowledge the limitations of and contraindications for massage and bodywork and refer clients to appropriate health professionals; and
  - b) Avoid any interest, activity or influence which might be in conflict with the licensee's obligation to act in the best interests of the client or the profession; and
  - c) Comply with all applicable Tennessee statutes and regulations; and
  - d) Conduct their business and professional activities with honesty and integrity, and respect the inherent worth of all persons; and
  - e) Consistently maintain and improve professional knowledge and competence, striving for professional excellence through regular assessment of personal and professional strengths and weaknesses and through continued education training; and
  - f) Exercise the right to refuse to treat any person or part of the body for just and reasonable cause; and
  - g) Have a sincere commitment to provide the highest quality of care to those that seek their professional services; and
  - h) Provide draping and treatment in a way that ensures the safety, comfort and privacy of the client; and
  - i) Provide treatment only where there is reasonable expectation that it will be advantageous to the client; and
  - j) Refrain, under all circumstances, from initiating or engaging in any sexual conduct, sexual activities, or sexualizing behavior involving a client, even if the client attempts to sexualize the relationship; and
  - k) Refuse any gifts or benefits which are intended to influence a referral, decision or treatment that are purely for personal gain and not for the good of the client; and
  - l) Refuse to unjustly discriminate against clients or other health professionals; and
  - m) Represent their qualifications honestly, including their educational achievements and professional affiliations, and provide only those services which they are qualified and licensed to perform; and
  - n) Respect the client's boundaries with regard to privacy, disclosure, exposure, emotional expression, beliefs, the client's autonomy, and the client's reasonable expectations of professional behavior; and
  - o) Respect the client's right to refuse, modify, or terminate treatment regardless of prior consent given; and
  - p) Respect the client's right to treatment with informed and voluntary consent by obtaining and recording informed voluntary written consent of the client, or client's advocate, before performing
    1. therapeutic treatments beyond the normal narrowing of the ear canal and normal narrowing of the nasal passages; and
    2. therapeutic treatments in the oropharynx; and
    - (ii) 3. therapeutic same-gender breast massage; and
  - q) Respect the client's right to treatment with informed and voluntary consent by obtaining and recording informed voluntary written or verbal consent of the client, or client's advocate, before providing treatment other than the treatments identified in subparagraph (1) (q) of this rule; and
  - r) Safeguard the confidentiality of all client information, unless the client provides written permission to release such information; or
    1. when such information is requested during a formal investigation by representatives of the State of Tennessee or other law enforcement agencies; or
    2. when required to do so pursuant to any action in a court of law; or
    3. where required by law to report to state or federal agencies.
  - (2) Violation of any provision listed in paragraph (1) is grounds for disciplinary action, as provided in Rule 0870-1-.13.
- 2) **Authority:** T.C.A. §§4-5-202, 4-5-204, 63-18-104, 63-18-108, 63-18-109, and 63-18-111. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed May 30, 2003; effective August 13, 2003. Amendment filed October 4, 2004; effective December 18, 2004. Amendment filed March 24, 2006; effective June 7, 2006.