

## The ARCHE Practitioner's Code of Ethics

### ARCHE – Academy for Research and Knowledge in Ericksonian Hypnosis

#### **Art 1. Respect of fundamental rights.**

*Hypnotists shall carry out their tasks with respect towards human dignity, preserving the privacy of their clients' personal life and family environment.*

#### **Art 2. Morality, integrity and humanity**

In all circumstances a hypnotist's behaviour shall be guided by the fundamental principles of the profession.

*Hypnotists perform their duties with independence, integrity and humanity.*

A trusting relationship can only exist if there is no doubt regarding a hypnotist's personal honour, probity and integrity. These traditional virtues are professional obligations.

It is prohibited to practice under a false name. The identity of the hypnotist must be perfectly established, including first name and surname.

Throughout their practice hypnotists shall respect the principles of loyalty, fellowship, sensitivity, moderation and courtesy. They shall demonstrate competency, devotion, diligence and prudence towards their clients.

#### **Art 3. Independence**

*The profession of hypnotist is a liberal and independent profession regardless of how it may be practiced. It may not be alienated.*

The wide range of duties that befall hypnotists requires an absolute independence, exempt of any pressure, in particular resulting from their own interests or external influences.

#### **Art 4. Professional secrecy**

*Professional secrecy, established in the interest of clients, is required of all hypnotists.*

Secrecy comprises all knowledge that hypnotists may have come upon during the practice of their profession, that is to say not only what was confided to them, but also everything they may have witnessed, seen, heard, perceived, understood or felt.

Professional secrecy is comprehensive and unlimited in time, subjected only to the strict requirements of the hypnotist's defense when confronted to any jurisdiction.

Hypnotists are released from their professional obligation in the event of a prominent and compelling reason. Should they become aware of a minor being exposed to serious risks, or of a minor being subjected to acts of a sexual or criminal nature, they shall notify the competent authorities.

Regardless of their obligation of secrecy, hypnotists shall not incur any professional sanctions, if they provide information that leads to avoid any current or future danger of particular gravity.

Hypnotists shall enforce professional secrecy on the members of their secretarial staff, as well as on any person with whom they collaborate during their professional activity.

Secrecy may be shared in the case of a particularly serious difficulty which would require hypnotists to seek counsel from their peers.

#### **Art 5. Interest of the client**

*Hypnotists have the obligation to pursue the interests of their clients to the best of their ability, taking precedence over their own interests and conceptions, or those of their peers.*

Hypnotists' decisions regarding the protocols to be applied will be determined by the goals agreed with the client. If necessary, hypnotists must take into account the negative impact that a change could produce on the client's "environment" and inform them accordingly.

Hypnotists shall provide loyal, clear and appropriate information on their expertise and on the proceedings of the session. They must take into account the client's personality in their explanation and they must ensure that they are understood.

Hypnotist shall not use their position of trust for personal purposes, proselytism, nor to take advantage of the client's potentially vulnerable state.

#### **Art 6. Conscience clause**

*Hypnotists shall refuse any assignment that goes against the ethical principles of their profession or that may compromise their independence.*

If the relationship of trust that binds hypnotists to their client is gravely impaired, they may decide to put an end to the counseling. If the defined objective goes beyond the hypnotists' competency, they shall step aside and steer the client towards a professional of the appropriate and relevant field (medicine, psychiatry, psychology...).

Hypnotists must listen, inform and counsel all persons with the same level of conscience without any discrimination.

#### **Art 7. Principle of non-discrimination**

Provenance, customs, family status, handicap or health state, real or presumed belonging to an ethnic group, a nation, a specific religion, or a political affiliation, shall not constitute a motive for compromising the hypnotists' conscience clause.

Should hypnotists be called upon to consult on a minor or an adult placed under guardianship, they shall obtain an informed consent from at least one parent or legal representative.

#### **Art 8. Competency and Training**

*In order to practice hypnotists must have obtained a Practitioner's certification issued or recognized as equivalent by one of the signatories of this present document and must have undergone supervision for one year, unless their experience and competency has been validated by their peers.*

Throughout the entire course of their practice they shall meet the demands of morality and respect the ethical principles of the profession.

Hypnotists shall update and improve their professional knowledge and competency taking into account the technical, scientific and ethical evolution of the profession. They shall participate in trainings to further their education and may participate in evaluations of professional practices.

#### **Art 9. Publicity**

Publicity is permitted to hypnotists if it provides accurate information to the public and if its execution is loyal to the essential principles of the profession.

Publicity includes relaying information on the nature of the services provided as long as it excludes any form of cold-calling.

False advertising, publicity containing inaccurate or fallacious information, hyperbolic or comparative mentions, or that may create the appearance of an unfounded professional qualification, are strictly prohibited. Hypnotists may resort to any legal means to promote their activity as long as they respect the dispositions of this article.

**Art 10. Fellowship and reputation of the profession**

*In the interest of the clients and the reputation of the profession, trusting and respectful relationships are required among hypnotists.*

Hypnotists recognise as their peer any person who is competent in their practice of hypnosis and who is respectful of the ethical principles, and shall demonstrate a cordial, dignified and loyal behaviour towards them.

Hypnotists owe each other assistance in the face of adversity or difficulty.

In the event of a dispute with a peer the hypnotist shall seek mediation, if necessary through the intermediary of an ethical comity.

Hypnotists shall consistently be mindful not to discredit their profession or their peers with an unworthy behaviour, even beyond the bounds of their professional practice.

**Art 11., Competition, clients and insurance**

Private practice hypnotists shall not divert for their own profit clients of a fellow hypnotist nor clients who may have temporarily been entrusted to them.

*Any action constituting unfair competition is prohibited.*

Hypnotists must ensure their professional responsibility in a reasonable manner taking into consideration the nature and the importance of the risks involved.