

2.4 Code of ethics for spiritual healers

A spiritual healer will:

Act with integrity, being honest and having strong moral principles. This includes:

1. Clearly advising the clients that spiritual healing is a supplementary or complementary therapy and does not replace treatment by a doctor or other licensed health care professional.
2. Not offering a diagnosis or claim to offer a 'cure' for any condition or offer any guarantees.
3. Not offering an opinion on any medical matters or procedures, even if asked by the client.
4. Not asking a person to undress, make any sexual innuendos or advances or touch the client in a manner that is inappropriate.

Present a high standard of service competence, understanding relevant healing developments, considering the expectations of the public and wider implications. This includes:

5. Dressing appropriately and maintaining a high level of personal cleanliness at all times.
6. At all times, being aware of the comfort requirements of the client.
7. Explaining what physical contact is involved and asking permission for this to happen.
8. Always respecting the client's wishes.
9. Being very aware of and respecting the different cultural needs.
10. Refraining from bringing their own emotional state into the session and endeavouring to stay optimistic, positive, supportive, and empathetic.
11. Being mindful of the sensitivities of the client when working with a client of the opposite sex and suggesting that it would be appropriate for them to have a friend or relative with them during the session.
12. Continually striving to work on their own healing, personal and professional development.

Show transparency in their dealings, being clear and open in their words and behaviours.

This includes:

13. Explaining what spiritual healing is to the client or their representative.

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14. Explaining to the client at the outset of the session if more than one healing modality is being used.

Act professionally, in a way that conforms to relevant laws and regulations. This includes:

15. Abiding by the *Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights* as set out in the HDC Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights Regulation 1996 and any subsequent amendments <https://www.hdc.org.nz/your-rights/about-the-code/code-of-health-and-disability-services-consumers-rights/>
16. Endeavouring to make their premises supportive and empowering, and ensuring that all relevant health and safety laws are followed which may include the *Health and Safety at Work Act 2015* and subsequent amendments <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2015/0070/latest/DLM5976660.html>
17. Abiding by the Privacy Act 2020 and subsequent amendments. <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0031/latest/LMS23223.html> by keeping patient-healer confidences strictly confidential and not discussing any information received from the client or understood during the course of a healing session with any third person unless required to do so by law.
18. Abiding by the Human Rights Act 1993 and subsequent amendments <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0082/latest/DLM304212.html> by treating all clients and prospective clients with equal respect and providing a healing service available to all without discrimination.
19. Not treating a child under the age of 16 without the written and signed permission of the parent / guardian. The parent / guardian should be present when the child is treated. Children over the age of 16 are considered legal adults under the Care of Children Act 2004 and subsequent amendments, and do not require parental permission. <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2004/0090/latest/DLM317233.html>
20. Unless otherwise qualified to do so, not practicing as a health / medical practitioner (including practicing or advising on dental care, midwifery, osteopathy, pharmacy treatments, dietetics, occupational therapy, optometry, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology, and psychotherapy, etc) as per the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 and associated acts. <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2003/0048/latest/DLM203319.html>
21. Giving healing and first aid to animals is permissible, but it is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and Veterinarians Act 2003 and their subsequent amendments for anyone not qualified as a registered veterinary surgeon to practice as such (as to diagnosis, performing certain surgery or prescribing



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medicine).

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1999/0142/latest/DLM49664.html>

Group Exercise: Class Discussion

As you review each point, discuss what you think it might mean. Some of these points, like the legal ones, are described more in depth later so don't get too bogged down in detail about them now.