

**Association des art-thérapeutes du Québec Inc**

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**CODE OF ETHICS OF ART THERAPISTS**

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*(Également disponible en Français: "Code de déontologie des art-thérapeutes")*

# **CODE OF ETHICS OF ART THERAPISTS**

Association des art-thérapeutes du Québec, Inc.

## **CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 1.1 Art therapists should view the ethical standards contained in this document as the minimum acceptable standards of the profession and the ones to which they will be held accountable by the public and their peers.
- 1.2 The ethical standards and standards of practice in this document have been adopted by the Association des art-thérapeutes du Québec as a definition of standards to be followed by practicing art therapists, by students engaged in the study of art therapy, by teachers of art therapy, and by any other persons who provide or who hold themselves out to any other persons as providers of art therapy.
- 1.3 In this document, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following words mean:
  - 1) "Client" - a person to whom an art therapist renders professional services;
  - 2) "Art Therapist" - a person who has completed professional training in art therapy and who is or has been engaged in the therapeutic use of art, as defined by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association des art-thérapeutes du Québec.
  - 3) "Art Therapy Student" - a person who is following a graduate art therapy training programme from a university or institute meeting the standards for art therapy training of the Association des art-thérapeutes du Québec.
  - 4) "Art Therapy Intern" - a student art therapist who is in the process of fulfilling the supervised practicum required by her or his graduate art therapy programme.

## **CHAPTER II: DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS THE PUBLIC**

- 2.1 Art therapists are responsible for the influence that their public behaviour may have on society, on their profession, and on their ability to perform as professionals. In their roles as clinicians, educators, researchers and interns, art therapists have duties and obligations toward the public.

- 2.2 Art therapists, in the exercise of their profession, take into consideration major theories, practices, and scientific principles generally recognized in art therapy. They maintain knowledge of current developments in their profession in order to render the highest possible level of professional services.
- 2.3 Art therapists take into consideration the effects that their research and work may have on society.
- 2.4 Art therapists shall seek improvement of the quality and availability of professional services in their field of practice.
- 2.5 Art therapists shall foster measures whose purpose is to educate and inform the public regarding their field of practice.
- 2.6 Art therapists must avoid any misleading representation in regard to their level of academic or professional competence, to the efficacy of the services they provide or to the nature of the services generally provided in art therapy.
- 2.7 Art therapy interns, students, or other persons who are not fully qualified to provide professional art therapy services have the responsibility to inform their clients that they are not fully qualified art therapists and are under the supervision of a qualified professional.
- 2.8 In the exercise of their duties, art therapists must avoid all actions which could possibly violate or lessen the civil, legal, or personal rights of others.
- 2.9 As practitioners, art therapists are subject to federal, provincial and local laws and to institutional regulations regarding the exercise of their duties.
- 2.10 As researchers, art therapists are subject to federal, provincial and local laws and to institutional regulations regarding the use of human subjects in research.

## **CHAPTER III: DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS THE CLIENT**

### **DIVISION I: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 3.1 Before accepting a request for services and while carrying it out, art therapists shall take into consideration the limits of their skills and of the means at their disposal. They shall undertake no professional work for which they are insufficiently prepared.
- 3.2 Where the interests of a client so require, an art therapist shall consult another art therapist, a member of another profession or another qualified person, or refer the client to such a person.

- 3.3 The art therapist is responsible for obtaining and maintaining adequate supervision and/or consultation from another qualified art therapist or mental health professional, and liaison with a physician, psychiatrist or psychologist who has hospital affiliations where appropriate.
- 3.4 At all times art therapists shall respect their clients' right to consult another art therapist, a member of another profession, or another person.
- 3.5 Art therapists shall refrain from practising their profession while in a state that could impair the quality of their services. In particular, they shall not practise their profession while under the influence of a substance that could cause inebriety, weakness or impairment of their faculties.
- 3.6 Art therapists must recognize that personal problems and conflicts may interfere with professional effectiveness. Accordingly, they should refrain from undertaking any activity in which their own psychological concerns are likely to lead to inadequate performance or harm to a client, colleague, student or research participant. If engaged in such conflicts, they are obliged to seek to determine whether they should suspend, terminate, or limit the scope of their professional activities, utilizing professional assistance, if necessary.
- 3.7 Art therapists shall establish and maintain a relationship of mutual trust with their clients.
- 3.8 Art therapists shall not make an assessment relating to one of their clients or give the latter opinions and advice without having sufficient professional information.
- 3.9 Art therapists shall refrain from interfering in the moral and legal affairs of their clients.

## DIVISION II: INTEGRITY AND OBJECTIVITY

- 3.10 Art therapists shall discharge their professional obligations with integrity, objectivity and moderation.
- 3.11 Art therapists shall avoid any method or attitude liable to confer a profit-making character upon their professional practice.
- 3.12 Art therapists shall inform any prospective clients, or the people legally responsible for them if they are incapable of evaluating the situation, of any aspects of their professional practice that could help in the decision whether or not to use art therapy services.
- 3.13 Art therapists shall avoid any misrepresentation relating to their competence and the effectiveness of their services or of those generally provided by members of the profession or by their employers.

- 3.14 Art therapists shall refrain from providing professional services to persons with whom they have relationships that could adversely affect the quality of their work.
- 3.15 Art therapists shall use no procedure aiming to force clients to disclose information against their will.
- 3.16 Except for their fees, art therapists shall have no financial dealings with clients that could adversely affect the quality of their services.
- 3.17 Art therapists shall avoid performing or unduly repeating professional acts without sufficient grounds and shall refrain from performing any act that is inappropriate to the needs of their clients.

### DIVISION III: AVAILABILITY AND DILIGENCE

- 3.18 Art therapists shall make themselves available and show diligence regarding their clients. If unable to meet a request within a reasonable time, they shall inform the client of the time when they will be available.
- 3.19 Art therapists shall give their clients all the explanations necessary to an understanding and evaluation of the services they provide.
- 3.20 Except when one is acting as a consultant for another professional, an art therapist may provide any client who so requests with a written or verbal report.
- 3.21 Except on just and reasonable grounds, an art therapist shall not discontinue services to a client. The following, in particular, are considered just and reasonable grounds:
  - 1) lack of any further benefit to the client from the art therapist's services;
  - 2) evidence of a conflict of interest between the art therapist and the client or of a situation jeopardising the relationship between the two; and
  - 3) incitement by the client to perform illegal, unfair or fraudulent acts.
- 3.22 Before discontinuing services to clients, an art therapist shall give them reasonable notice and ensure that the discontinuation causes no prejudice to the client.

### DIVISION IV: LIABILITY

- 3.23 Art therapists shall accept personal civil liability. In a contract for professional services, they shall add no clause excluding such liability.

## DIVISION V: INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY

- 3.24 Art therapists shall set the interests of their clients above their own personal interests, and where applicable, above those of their employers or colleagues.
- 3.25 Art therapists shall disregard any interventions on the part of third parties which could affect adversely the performance of their professional duties.
- 3.26 Art therapists shall maintain professional independence and avoid any situation that would create a conflict of interest.
- 3.27 As soon as one finds one is in or could be in a situation of conflict of interest, the art therapist shall define the nature and direction of her or his obligations and responsibilities, and inform the client.
- 3.28 Art therapists may share their fees with other persons only to the extent that the sharing corresponds to a division of professional services and responsibilities.
- 3.29 Apart from the remuneration to which they are entitled art therapists shall not accept any benefit, rebate, or commission for the practice of their profession. Likewise, they shall not pay, offer to pay or promise to pay any such benefit, rebate or commission.
- 3.30 For each service provided, art therapists shall accept fees from one source only, unless a written agreement between the parties specifies otherwise. They shall accept payment of their fees from their clients only, or from the persons legally responsible for their clients.
- 3.31 Art therapists may act in the interests of only one party in the same case. If one's professional duty requires one to act otherwise, the art therapist shall specify the nature of her or his responsibilities and inform all interested parties that she or he will cease to act if the situation should prevent her or him from remaining impartial.

## DIVISION VI: PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENTIALITY

- 3.32 Art therapists are bound to professional confidentiality.
- 3.33 Art therapists may be released from professional confidentiality by written authorisation from their clients or by order of the law.
- 3.34 Where an art therapist asks a client to reveal confidential information or allows such information to be revealed, the art therapist must ensure that the client is fully aware of the various uses that could be made of that information.
- 3.35 Art therapists shall not disclose the name of any persons who depend upon their services.

- 3.36 Art therapists shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent any partners, employees or other persons whose services they have retained from revealing confidential information given by clients.
- 3.37 Art therapists preserve clients' anonymity when using information received from them for teaching or scientific purposes.
- 3.38 An art therapist called upon to give an expert evaluation before a court of justice shall inform the person she or he is to examine her or his mandate. The art therapist shall limit the report and deposition before the court to information relevant to the case.
- 3.39 The content of art therapists' records may not be divulged unless the client gives written authorisation.
- 3.40 If art therapists wish to tape or film interviews, they must first obtain written permission from clients.
- 3.41 Where art therapists render professional services to couples or families, they must safeguard the right to professional secrecy of all members of the couples or families. Art therapists shall keep the portions of the records or the information provided by individual members of the couples or families confidential.
- 3.42 Art therapists shall not make use of any confidential information that would be detrimental to the client or for their personal gain or that of others.

#### DIVISION VII: CLIENT ARTWORK

- 3.43 The artwork made by clients in art therapy should be treated with the respect and dignity commensurate with that accorded the client. The disposition of artwork is presumed to be a treatment issue and is decided upon in consultation with the client and in accordance with the philosophy of the hospital or treatment facility.
- 3.44 The art therapist must advise the client, at the commencement of treatment, about ownership of the artwork within the treatment mandate.
- 3.45 Ownership of the client artwork in private practice is viewed as a treatment issue in which the art therapist uses her or his own discretion in respect of the client's wishes.
- 3.46 The art therapist must obtain written permission from the client or guardian for the reproduction of client artwork by photographic or other means for purposes other than use in treatment with other professionals concerned with the particular case.

- 3.47 Under no other circumstances may any client's products of art therapy be displayed without the written consent of the client. The parent or the guardian must give consent regarding children. If the child is a ward of the court, the person acting as the official guardian must give consent. Involuntarily committed individuals or persons declared legally incompetent are not competent by law to give informed consent. No one may give consent for them except those who have power of attorney. Any such person who is later restored to her or his original status may be requested to give consent at this later time.
- 3.48 Disclosures of client art products for clinical and/or academic, or teaching purposes unrelated to the treatment of the specific client or clients (where a group is involved) are permitted only with the written permission of the client or guardian. The use of client artwork for those purposes is acceptable if consent is informed. In the case of a group, and where unrelated to treatment, any member of a group (or her or his guardian) may elect not to participate or to prohibit disclosure of information of any type.
- 3.49 Consent for public exhibition or publication must be specific. In the case of exhibition, the date, place and purpose of the exhibit must be stipulated.
- 3.50 Under no circumstances may a client be identified by name, address, date of hospitalisation or of treatment, or other specific information which may disclose the person to the public. Any attempt to mask identity creates the possibility of describing a real person. Information may be simply sex and age. All accompanying descriptive literature must follow these guidelines. Any explanatory material in any form written and verbal, material should be presented with discretion in a manner upholding the dignity of the client and the profession.
- 3.51 Artwork or duplications of it may not be used for advertising or promotion without the permission of the client. The client's anonymity and confidentiality must be protected as set out in paragraph 3.50 above.

#### **DIVISION VIII: ACCESS TO RECORDS**

- 3.52 Except on just and reasonable grounds, an art therapist shall allow the client to examine any documents concerning her or him in the records and to obtain copies of them. The following, in particular, are considered just and reasonable grounds:
- 1) the risk of compromising the methodology and methodological validity of a test by revealing the protocol to the client;
  - 2) the fact that examination of the documents in the record would be detrimental to the clients.



## DIVISION IX: DETERMINATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES

- 3.53 Art therapists are aware that the determination and payment of fees may be issues of therapeutic treatment and shall be decided upon with due consideration of the client.
- 3.54 Art therapists shall charge and accept fees that are fair and reasonable, warranted by the circumstances, and proportional to the services provided. In cases where art therapists set their own fees, they shall take the following factors into account:
- 1) their experience;
  - 2) the time spent in providing the professional service;
  - 3) the complexity and extent of the services;
  - 4) the performance of unusual services or of services requiring exceptional competence or dispatch;
  - 5) that a sliding fee scale system is appropriate in order to provide art therapy services to clients in financial difficulties.
- 3.55 An art therapist shall provide the client with all the explanations necessary to the understanding of one's statement of fees and the terms of payment. The fact that two or more professionals are providing services to the same client or that the fees are pooled does not release the art therapist from this obligation.
- 3.56 Art therapists may not require advance payment of their professional fees. However, on the basis of a written agreement with one's client, one may require an advance payment to cover expenditures entailed by the performance of the professional services required.
- 3.57 Art therapists shall provide their clients with advance knowledge of the cost of their professional services.
- 3.58 Art therapists may not charge interest on an account unless the client has been dutifully notified. Interest thus charged must be set at a reasonable rate.
- 3.59 Before taking legal action, art therapists shall exhaust all other means at their disposal to obtain payment of their fees.
- 3.60 If art therapists entrust another person with the collection of their fees, they must ensure that the latter will act with tact and moderation.

## **CHAPTER IV: DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS THE PROFESSION**

### **DIVISION I: DEROGATORY ACTS**

4.1 The following are derogatory to the dignity of the profession:

- a) insistentlly and repeatedly inducing a person to use one's professional services;
- b) counselling or encouraging a client to commit an illegal or fraudulent act;
- c) having romantic or sexual contact with a client;
- d) claiming fees for professional services not rendered when a cancellation is announced within limits determined by the therapist and client;
- e) claiming a sum of money from a client for professional service or part of a professional service whose cost is to be assumed by a third party, unless there is a formal agreement to that effect between the art therapist, the client and the third party;
- f) issuing a receipt or other document falsely indicating that certain services were rendered;
- g) billing a client for an interview, communication or correspondence with the A.A.T.Q. where the latter requested explanations or information from the art therapist concerning a complaint filed by the client or another person;
- h) communicating with a plaintiff without obtaining prior written permission from the A.A.T.Q., when the art therapist is informed of a pending inquiry into her or his professional conduct or competence or when a complaint has been served upon her or him;
- i) neglecting to inform the A.A.T.Q. as soon as possible that a person is using the title of art therapist under false pretences;
- j) neglecting to inform the A.A.T.Q. that she or he has reason to believe an art therapist is incompetent or is violating the professional Code of Ethics.

### **DIVISION II: PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS**

4.2 An art therapist shall answer as soon as possible any correspondence from the A.A.T.Q. or its representatives or members of the professional inspection committee concerning the application of the Code of Ethics.

- 4.3 An art therapist shall not abuse a colleague's good faith or be guilty of breach of trust or disloyal practices towards a colleague.
- 4.4 An art therapist consulted by a colleague shall give that colleague her or his opinion and recommendations as soon as possible.
- 4.5 An art therapist practising jointly with other art therapists or other persons shall ensure that this practice is in no way detrimental to the client.
- 4.6 An art therapist called upon to collaborate with another art therapist or person shall retain professional autonomy. The art therapist is under no obligation to perform any task contrary to her or his professional conscience or the principles of the profession. The art therapist shall inform the A.A.T.Q. of any pressures placed upon her or him that are detrimental to the practice of the profession.
- 4.7 Art therapists requested by the A.A.T.Q. An art therapist shall answer as soon as possible any correspondence from the A.A.T.Q. or its representatives or members of the professional inspection committee concerning the application of the Code of Ethics. shall accept this duty unless they have exceptional grounds for refusing.
- 4.8 Insofar as possible, art therapists shall contribute to the development of their profession through the sharing of knowledge and experience with colleagues and students and participation in courses and continuing training sessions.

### DIVISION III: RESPONSIBILITIES TO STUDENTS

- 4.9 As teachers, art therapists are aware of the fact that their personal values may affect the selection and presentation of instructional materials. Thus, when dealing with topics that may give offence, they should recognise and respect the diverse attitudes that students may have towards such materials.
- 4.10 As teachers and/or supervisors, art therapists must adhere to the Code of Ethics and must ensure that students/trainees know and understand the Code.
- 4.11 Supervisors or teachers may not permit a person under their supervision to perform professional services beyond the student's level of competence, taking into account education, training and experience.
- 4.12 The supervisor of art therapy interns is responsible, along with those persons, for informing clients concerning the fact that they are in training under the supervision of a qualified professional.

- 4.13 Supervisors are responsible for providing direct supervision for the art therapy experience of those with whom they have a supervisory relationship in accordance with the professional standards and ethics of the A.A.T.Q. Direct supervision means review, evaluation and assessment of assigned experience in individual or group face-to-face consultation. Group consultations consist of no more than five (5) persons per supervisor.
- 4.14 The supervisor is to provide at least one hour of direct supervision for each week of experience by a student under supervision.
- 4.15 Art therapy supervisors recognise the boundaries of their own education, training and experience and do not perform, or hold themselves out to be able to perform, supervision services beyond their knowledge of art therapy and psychotherapeutic techniques.
- 4.16 Art therapy supervisors are responsible for maintaining the quality of their own supervision skills and shall obtain consultation or supervision for their work as supervisors whenever appropriate.
- 4.17 Supervisors negotiate a clear contract with those who seek or are assigned to them for supervision. The contract indicates, but is not necessarily limited to such terms as:
- 1) the method of supervision which the supervisor will use;
  - 2) the clientele with whom the person under supervision will probably be working;
  - 3) the art therapy techniques which the person under supervision is likely to employ;
  - 4) the schedule of time, place and fee for the supervision meeting.
- 4.18 Among specific practices, which are considered unethical for art therapy, supervisors are the following:
- 1) signing as supervisor for hours of art therapy experiences of an art therapy intern without actually providing direct supervision for these art therapy experience hours;
  - 2) maintaining a financial agreement with an art therapy intern or trainee of an art therapy client, which results in unreasonable fees, charged to clients;
  - 3) misleading the clients of an intern or trainee regarding the qualifications of that person or the nature of the supervision relationship; and
  - 4) failing to provide the type and extent of supervision for which contracted.
  - 5) Instructors, supervisors or faculty members are not permitted to engage in art therapy practice with their students.

- 6) Continuing to supervise someone who has continued to violate the Code of Ethics despite having received fair and reasonable notice of their violations.

#### DIVISION IV: PUBLIC STATEMENTS

- 4.19 Public statements and announcements of services of art therapists serve the purpose of providing sufficient information to aid the consumer public in making informed judgements and choices. Art therapists represent accurately and objectively their qualifications, affiliations and functions. They at all times are aware of the ramifications of promotional activities on the associations or institutions with which they are associated.
- 4.20 Art therapists follow professional rather than commercial standards in making known the availability of their professional services.
- 4.21 In any public statements concerning art therapy, the art therapist shall avoid exaggeration and/or sensationalism.
- 4.22 An art therapist giving information to the public on art therapy procedures and techniques shall indicate clearly any restrictions that apply to their use. The art therapist does not propose to teach techniques to anyone but another art therapist or art therapy student.
- 4.23 The art therapist shall abstain from publicly discrediting any traditional or new art therapy techniques that differ from those she or he uses but that respect the principles generally accepted in art therapy.
- 4.24 An art therapist participating in the commercial distribution of instruments, books or other products related to art therapy, shall base any statement regarding their operation, advantages or effectiveness on professionally and scientifically acceptable evidence.
- 4.25 Advertising must be modest in tone and appearance and should generally take the form of announcements.
- 4.26 All announcements in which the services of the art therapist are offered should provide a clear and accurate description of the experience and services to be provided. The education, training, and experience of the art therapist must be accurately identified.
- 4.27 Announcements regarding professional services do not claim uniqueness of skills or methods, nor contain testimonials or quotations referring to the therapist's abilities. Information should be limited to name, highest academic degree conferred, date and type of certification, address, telephone number, office hours, and a brief definition and listing of types of art therapy services offered. Agencies may list the names of staff members with recognised qualifications.

- 4.28 In announcing the availability of art therapy services, only art therapists who are certified members of the A.A.T.Q. may display affiliation with the Association by using the A.T.P.Q. Certification mark with “\*Professional Art Therapist of Quebec: certified member, Association des art-thérapeutes du Québec”, indicating membership on business cards and pamphlets. No art therapist, organisation, or other individual may use the Association’s logo to imply any endorsement or sponsorship of services without the written permission of the A.A.T.Q.
- 4.29 Announcements of "personal growth groups" must give a clear statement of the purpose and the nature of experiences to be provided. The education, training, and experience of the art therapist leader must be accurately and appropriately provided. Such announcements should not imply that the group is designed as a therapy group.
- 4.30 An art therapist does not participate for personal gain in commercial announcements, which recommend the use of any particular product or service associated with the practice of art therapy.
- 4.31 No advertisement may denigrate, belittle or reflect in any negative manner the skills, competence, fees or any other matter of any other art therapist.
- 4.32 As educators, art therapists ensure that statements in catalogues and course outlines accurately describe the subject matter to be covered, the nature of course experiences, and the bases for evaluating progress.
- 4.33 Announcements or brochures describing workshops, seminars, or other educational programs must accurately represent intended audience and eligibility requirements, educational objectives, and the nature of material to be covered as well as the education, training, and experience of the art therapist(s) presenting the program(s), and any fee involved.
- 4.34 The art therapist endeavours to correct others who may represent the art therapist's professional qualifications or associations with services or products in a manner incompatible with these standards.
- 4.35 Art therapy services are provided only in the context of a professional relationship and are not given by means of public lectures or demonstrations, newspaper or magazine articles, radio or television programs, mail or other media.

## DIVISION V: STANDARDS FOR ART THERAPY ASSESSMENT USE

- 4.36 In every aspect regarding the administration, interpretation and use of art therapy assessment procedures, as well as their publication and the information to be found in books and other literature related to such assessment procedures, an art therapist shall adhere to the standards and principles set forth elsewhere in this document. In particular, care shall be taken to safeguard the client's rights to confidentiality and to give an honest and frank explanation concerning the procedures and their use. Under no circumstance shall an art therapist administer an art therapy assessment procedure without the prior knowledge and consent of the client.
- 4.37 An art therapist shall refrain from administering assessment procedures by correspondence, except where an assessment procedure has been designed for such use.

## DIVISION VI: INTERPRETATION OF ART THERAPY MATERIAL

- 4.38 An art therapist shall use caution in the interpretation of art therapy material, including artwork and interactions both within the therapy situation and as part of assessment procedures.
- 4.39 In all their professional reports, written or verbal, art therapists shall restrict their comments to the interpretation of the art therapy material related to the consultation, and to the relevant conclusions and recommendations.
- 4.40 Art therapists shall avoid all possibility of false interpretation or erroneous use of the information they give others.

## DIVISION VII: PRECAUTIONS RELATED TO RESEARCH

- 4.41 Art therapy research projects and the participation of art therapists in the research projects of others shall be evaluated both in relation to the research's contribution to the field of art therapy and human welfare, as well as in relation to the welfare of the subjects of the project. The decision to undertake research should rest upon a considered judgement by the individual art therapist about how best to contribute to art therapy service and human welfare. The responsible art therapist weighs alternative directions in which personal energies and resources might be invested. Having made the decision to conduct research, art therapists must carry out their investigations with respect for the people who participate and with concern for their dignity and welfare.

- 4.42 Before undertaking a research project, an art therapist shall evaluate its possible repercussions on the subjects. In particular, one shall:
- 1) consult any person likely to help in deciding whether to undertake the research or in taking particular steps to eliminate any emotional or physical risk to research subjects;
  - 2) ensure that all those working with the principal investigator share her or his concern for the full respect of the research subjects and, if applicable, their artwork;
  - 3) obtain the written consent of all participants or persons legally responsible for them, after informing them to the best of the therapist's knowledge of any risks inherent in the research, and of any other aspects likely to help them in their decision regarding their participation;
  - 4) assure institutional bodies or relevant associations of the ethical acceptability of the research.
- 4.43 Art therapists shall be honest and frank in their dealing with research subjects. If the methodology followed makes it imperative that certain aspects of the project not be disclosed immediately, the art therapist shall disclose the deception and explain the reasons for it as soon as possible at the end of the research.
- 4.44 An art therapist shall not coerce a person to take part in research or to continue to do so.
- 4.45 An art therapist shall exercise special care when undertaking an experiment during which a person's mental or physical health could be affected. An art therapist shall undertake no experiment that could have a permanent or serious harmful effect on a person.
- 4.46 Where consent of the subjects themselves cannot be obtained, consent must be sought from someone in authority, together with written consent from an impartial person who may act as an independent advocate.
- 4.47 Captive subjects should always have the right to veto consent given by the authorities or by any other person for their participation in the research.
- 4.48 The informed consent of parents or guardians must be obtained before using minors and individuals who require the guidance of a caregiver or legal guardian to make decisions as subjects. In school, camp, or other group settings, the consent of the principal, director or other appropriate authority as well as the informed consent of the parents and guardians must be obtained. Where a child is a ward of the state or of an agency the informed consent of the director of the agency in charge of the ward, as well as of the person having custody of the ward, must be obtained.



- 4.49 Children should be given individually the opportunity to refuse to participate in the research or to withdraw their participation at their own request.
- 4.50 Information obtained about the research subjects or participants is confidential during the course of an investigation. When the possibility exists that others may obtain access to such information, ethical research practice requires that this possibility, together with the plans for practicing confidentiality, be explained to the subjects as a part of the procedure for obtaining informed consent.
- 4.51 All acquisitions of data should be for the purpose of scholarship and not for personal gain.
- 4.52 Research projects undertaken by or participated in by art therapy professionals or students in any health care or other institution shall come under the appropriate review board for research with human subjects and shall be subject to the ethical standards and review procedures applicable to research projects in general in that setting.
- 4.53 The researcher should be especially alert to ensure that any consent obtained with respect to captive and dependent populations is not in some way or to some degree obtained by subtle pressures being brought to bear on that captive subject, which pressures may invalidate the consent. Captive and dependent populations are defined as individuals or groups who are in relationship with others involving a power differential, which could operate to their disadvantage as subjects. Thus, for example, students, minors, prisoners, employees, military personnel, minority groups, incapacitated people and the socially deprived might well be involved.

### **NOTICE OF REVISION**

Chapter III, Division IV Articles 3.30	deleted & replaced June 2005
Chapter III Division VII Articles 3.50	revised June 2005
Chapter IV, Division V Articles 4.1(c) Articles 4.1(d) Articles 4.1(e)	revised June 2005 revised June 2005 deleted & replaced June 2005
Chapter IV, Division IV Articles 4.27 & 4.28	combined July 2001
Chapter IV, Division IV Articles 4.28 & 4.34	revised July 2001
Chapter IV, Division VII Article 4.42.3 & 4.48	revised July 2001