

SCHEDULE A: CODE OF ETHICS

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS INC

Purpose

This Code of Ethics states the required standard for responsible conduct by Members of the Association of Christian Spiritual Directors Aotearoa New Zealand Inc.

Responsibilities of Directors for their Own Training and On-going Formation

The Member commits him or herself to

1. increasing her/his professional knowledge and insight by:

- on-going study and education in Scripture, Christian faith and teaching, Christian ethics, spirituality and prayer and in the human sciences

2. developing professional competence and accountability by:

- on-going practice of interpersonal skills and exercise of abilities of rapport building and discernment
- an openness to God's grace in her/his work
- regular supervision of her/his work by a qualified and competent person, or in a peer group of qualified and competent directors. The focus of such supervision is to be on the director and the integration of her/his personal development.

3. fostering a healthy growth in her/his own spiritual life by:

- practicing personal disciplines of prayer love and detachment
- openness to the Holy Spirit
- a contemplative reflection on her/his own experience
- engaging in regular spiritual direction as a directee
- maintaining a responsible relationship to a faith community

Responsibilities of Directors to their Directee(s)

The member commits him or herself to:

1. initiate and establish agreements with directees about the

- nature of spiritual direction
- roles of director and directee
- length and frequency of direction sessions
- remuneration to be given to the director
- procedure for on-going mutual evaluation of the relationship

2. respect the directee's

- right to confidentiality except where a directee becomes a threat to her/himself or to others vulnerability
- moral, religious and spiritual values – refraining from imposing her/his own values on the directee
- privacy – not inappropriately probing any directee for information that s/he is reluctant to share
- boundaries – not engaging in inappropriate behaviour of a physical or emotional nature.

Such inappropriate behaviour includes

- ✚ spiritual abuse – use of the director’s own spiritual insights and experience to manipulate or control the directee
- ✚ professional sexual abuse – sexual gratification of the director or directee through inappropriate contact – verbal, emotional, physical, or other, between them.

3. be sensitive to the need to refer a directee to a qualified counselor or psychotherapist, such instances including when a directee:

- ✚ is experiencing a serious psychological or emotional disorder
- ✚ needs more time to explore some life issues, e.g. a marital problem
- ✚ would benefit from specific therapies, e.g. to aid resolution of earlier experiences such as sexual, physical or emotional abuse

Responsibilities of Directors to Other Members of the Association

The Member commits him or herself to:

1. respect and honour other members of the Association
2. encourage them to uphold the required standards of the Association as set out in the Membership Covenant and Code of Ethics.
3. respond to a perceived breach of this Covenant and Code in the spirit of the Christian Gospel by:
 - ✚ drawing the perceived breach to the attention of the member concerned
 - ✚ referring the matter to the Executive if the perceived breach continues.