

Code of Ethics



Preamble

CASLPA members shall abide by the Code of Ethics, By-Laws and policies of the association. The Code of Ethics sets forth the fundamental values and standards essential to the responsible practice of speech-language pathology and audiology. The underlying values of the Code form the rationale for ethical standards and provide the basis for ethical practice and decision-making. The standards within the Code guide members in maintaining professionally acceptable behaviour in their practice. These are also the standards others use to judge members, and that form the basis for the actions of the CASLPA Ethics Committee.

Any action that violates the spirit and purpose of the Code of Ethics is considered unethical. The Code provides guidance; it cannot offer definitive resolution to all ethical questions that may arise during professional practice. Failure to specify any particular responsibility of practice in this Code does not negate the existence of these responsibilities or practices.

CASLPA members hold these values:

- **Integrity**
Members recognize and adhere to the principles of truth, accountability, objectivity and accuracy in all of their activities.
- **Professionalism**
Members support and enhance the reputation of their profession by participating in and accepting the self-regulation of their profession, honouring contractual agreements and complying with Federal and Provincial/Territorial laws. Members seek to advance the quality and provision of professional services through advocacy and public education.
- **Caring and Respect**
Members value the well being of others. The welfare and dignity of those served professionally is paramount. The provision of professional services takes priority over personal interests, aims and opinions. Members demonstrate respect, compassion and confidentiality in their interactions with others. Members accept and respect differing perspectives and seek to understand differing cultural beliefs that affect their professional services.
- **High Standards and Continuing Competency**
Members practice within their scope of competence and seek to enhance and maintain their professional skills through continuing education. Members strive to provide professional services and information supported by current scientific and professional research.

In this CASLPA Code of Ethics, members should interpret the standards as defined with these terms:

“**Client**” means the individual receiving professional services and in the case of an individual who is not capable, the legal guardian or legal representative. With the consent of the individual or legal guardian/representative, “client” may also include family members and caregivers.

“**Communication Disorder**” means any disorder and/or delay within the scope of practice for a speech-language pathologist and/or audiologist including but not limited to the following: speech-language disorders, hearing impairment, vertigo, tinnitus, swallowing, reading and writing and cognitive disorders.

“**Conflict of Interest**” means the acceptance of any form of benefit, economic reward or gifts whereby the professional judgment of the speech-language pathologist and/or audiologist is compromised and the services provided or recommendations made are influenced by factors other than the best interest of the individuals receiving the services.

“**Informed Consent**” means a client gives consent to receive a proposed service following a process of decision-making leading to an informed choice. Valid consent may be either verbal or written unless otherwise required by institutional or provincial/territorial regulation. The client is provided with sufficient information, including the benefits and risks, and the possible alternatives to the proposed service, and the client understands this information. The client can withdraw informed consent at any time.

“Professional Competence” means the ongoing ability to integrate and apply the knowledge, skills, attitudes and judgement required to provide effective and ethical speech-language pathology and/or audiology services within a designated area of practice.

“Services” means direct, indirect and follow-up activities.

“Supportive Personnel” means individuals providing services under the direct supervision of a speech-language pathologist and/or audiologist. This excludes teachers, volunteers and family members.

“Telepractice” means reference to the use of technology to deliver speech-language pathology and/or audiology services at a distance.

Standards

1 Professional Competence	CASLPA Members shall: a) meet national membership requirements and where required, hold provincial/territorial registration. b) provide services within the CASLPA Scope of Practice ¹ . c) engage only in the provision of services that fall within their professional competence, considering their level of education, training and recent experience and/or their access to professional supervision/assistance from qualified colleagues.
2 Continuing Education	Members shall: a) strive to maintain and enhance their professional competence throughout their careers. b) engage in continuing education in their profession to ensure their ongoing competence in those areas of practice in which they are already involved. c) initiate education in those subject areas in which their knowledge and practical experience is limited or dated prior to engaging in unsupervised client contact. d) as a minimum, meet the CASLPA continuing education guidelines for maintenance of certification.
3 Incapacity	Members whose services are adversely affected by substance abuse or other health-related conditions shall withdraw from the affected areas of practice and seek professional assistance where appropriate.
4 Delegation	a) Members are responsible for all professional services they delegate to personnel under their supervision. b) Members shall not misrepresent the credentials of assistants, technicians, students or supportive personnel and shall inform the client of the name and professional credentials of persons providing services.
5 Information for the Client	Members shall: a) provide information to the client regarding the nature of, services for, and treatment options for the client’s communication disorder. b) ensure that information provided to the client is accurate and truthful and is understood by the client.
6 Informed Consent	Members shall: a) obtain verbal or written consent from the client before assessment or treatment. b) ensure that the client has the right to refuse consent or withdraw consent once given. c) obtain consent from the client before sharing the client’s information with others, unless the member is required to do otherwise by law. d) obtain consent from the client prior to using case material, case records, or audio-visual material in teaching or in mass media communication. Where possible and appropriate, members shall eliminate identifying client information from the material that is shared in such situations.

7 Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Members shall not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, sex, age, or disability in their professional relationships with their colleagues or with clients. b) Members may decide to limit their practice to certain areas of professional interest or competence.
8 Harassment	Members shall not condone nor engage in harassment of clients, colleagues or others.
9 Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Members shall utilize resources that they and the client deem appropriate. This includes recommending and/or making referrals to other persons and agencies whose knowledge and services may contribute to the diagnosis, assessment and/or treatment of clients. b) Members unable to assess or provide the necessary services promptly shall provide the client with information regarding other appropriate sources of assistance to ensure client care is not jeopardized.
10 Telepractice	Members may practice via telepractice in accordance with applicable guidelines ² , unless prohibited by law.
11 Safety	Members shall take every precaution to avoid harm to the client. This includes following applicable health and safety practices and ensuring that equipment is appropriately calibrated and in proper working order.
12 Records	<p>Members shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) prepare and maintain adequate records of professional services rendered and products dispensed, in a timely fashion. b) allow access to these records when appropriate authorization is obtained from the client or when required to do so by law.
13 Privacy	Members shall be familiar with and shall comply with appropriate Federal or Provincial/Territorial privacy legislation.
14 Public Statements	Members shall ensure that any public statements they make regarding the professions are not misleading. Their spoken, written or printed communications shall be true, accurate and clear in representing their qualifications, professional affiliations, education, experience and competence.
15 Advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Members may advertise their professional services. b) Members shall not advertise in a way that is false, misleads the public, misrepresents the professions, or disparages the skills of colleagues or other professions.
16 Business Practices	<p>Members shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure that their promotion(s), sales and fees for products and/or services for clients are appropriate and fair. b) disclose prior to providing any services or products, the fees, charges and billing arrangements that will apply, and obtain the client's consent.

<p>17</p> <p>Conflict of Interest</p>	<p>Members shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> be vigilant in avoiding activities that may be construed as a conflict of interest. not use information gained in their place of employment to refer a client to their own private practice nor to a colleague within the member's own private practice. ensure the provision of professional services takes priority over personal interests, aims and opinions.
<p>18</p> <p>Exploitation</p>	<p>Members shall not exploit the client by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> providing unnecessary or futile services/products where benefit or continued benefit cannot be reasonably expected. This does not preclude a member from providing a period of trial therapy or product trial to determine if benefit could occur. guaranteeing the results of services or products directly, or by implication. This does not rule out members providing a reasonable statement of prognosis, nor does it rule out manufacturers providing a product guarantee. charging a fee that is excessive in relation to the service provided. submitting a false or misleading account or charge for a service rendered or for a product dispensed.
<p>19</p> <p>Endorsement</p>	<p>Members shall endorse students or supervisees for completion of academic training, certification, or employment only if they demonstrate the required competencies and expected ethical practices.</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Research</p>	<p>Members shall use protocols that are in compliance with standards accepted by the scientific community by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> obtaining approval where required for research projects, including studies, that follow the relevant national, provincial or institutional protocols. obtaining informed consent from research subjects prior to their participation in research studies and respecting the subject's right to withdraw from studies. ensuring the confidentiality of research participants and obtaining informed consent or refusal prior to releasing any identifying information. ensuring that participation in research augments rather than delays or interferes with scientifically accepted methods of diagnosis or treatment. using peer review processes to evaluate research before presentation to the public.
<p>21</p> <p>Professional Acknowledgement</p>	<p>Members shall acknowledge the contributions of other professionals when referencing work or contributions in research, presentations or products.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Ethical Responsibility to the Professions</p>	<p>Members shall cooperate with the CASLPA Ethics Committee regarding instances of alleged violation of this Code, CASLPA By-Laws or policies by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> understanding the application of the ethical and practice standards of the profession. cooperating with any committee authorized by CASLPA to investigate or act upon an alleged violation. refraining from activities that advocate, sanction, participate in or condone any act that is in violation of this Code, CASLPA By-Laws or policies. reporting suspected violations to the CASLPA Ethics Committee.

Approved by the CASLPA Board of Directors, February 9, 2005

(Footnotes)

¹ CASLPA Scope of Practice is available at www.caslpa.ca or from National Office.

² The CASLPA draft Position Paper on Telepractice is one reference.

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