



INSTITUTE OF
AUTHENTIC TANTRA
EDUCATION

CODE OF ETHICS

Authentic Tantra® is a trademarked holistic sexual healing modality that includes application of the ancient Tibetan 5 Element Teachings of Tibetan Tantric Buddhism. The trademark Authentic Tantra® and the copyright in the modalities incorporated into Authentic Tantra® material is owned by Devi Ward Erickson, and licensed to the Institute of Authentic Tantra Education Ltd. (IATE Ltd.)

The founders of IATE Ltd. take their responsibility for sharing The Tibetan 5 Element Teachings with the general public very seriously.

It is in our interest to protect the Authentic Tantra® teachings, by making sure that the spreading of them happens in a way that preserves their authenticity and integrity as well as protects the Certified Authentic Tantra® Practitioners and their clients.

This document, in conjunction with the Certification Licensing Agreement, serve this purpose.

CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CODES OF CONDUCT

Recognizing its responsibilities to society and given its own national and international mission, IATE Ltd. (from now on referred to as the Company) has adopted the following Code of Ethics & Ethical Codes of Conduct (referred to as the Code) which all AT Practitioner's are deemed to adopt by virtue of their certification as a Certified AT Practitioner.

Also, the Code is created to ensure that anyone practicing under the title Certified Authentic Tantra® Practitioner (AT Practitioner) respect and honor the Shangpa Kagyu Lineage of Tibetan Buddhist teachers (Lamas) that the foundational tantric teachings of Authentic Tantra® are based upon.

AT Practitioners are aware that the Authentic Tantra teachings are shared by nature of the transmission of the practitioner's level of attainment, and that they can only teach what they practice themselves. In their professional work with Clients, AT Practitioners agree to practice and teach AT methods as permitted within their level of certification. Further, Certified Authentic Tantra® Practitioners represent the brand Authentic Tantra® and the community of Authentic Tantra® Practitioners. The Code serves to ensure that Authentic Tantra® Practitioners support each other and maintain good Samaya by agreeing to the same standard of ethical, responsible behaviour.

The Code is designed according to the motivation imbedded in this style of tantra, which is to practice for the benefit of self AND others.

The Code applies to all Certified Authentic Tantra® (AT) Practitioners and encompasses any activity that directly or indirectly relates to professional identity or training. The Code does not replace, or modify the requirements for, or purposes of, certification as an AT Practitioner, or Teacher Trainer.

The Company takes the ethical conduct of all AT Practitioners very seriously.

The Professional Codes of Conduct are a set of guidelines to which all AT Practitioners must adhere. Their intention is to offer a dynamic set of ethical standards for professional practice, which allow for flexibility, reflecting the various working areas of individual practitioners.

The Professional Codes of Conduct form a solid base of ethical practice, which is the hallmark of a grounded, integrated and ethical practitioner with well-established boundaries.

The Professional Codes of Conduct expand upon the Code of Ethics and offers enforceable standards of professionalism expected from AT Practitioners.

CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics reflects the purpose of the Authentic Tantra® modality, which is to bring forth ancient authentic tantric instructions for the purpose of healing human suffering, specifically in the area of sexuality, at the level of the individual and the society, and for all beings benefit. AT Practitioners share the common aims of supporting Clients' individual personal growth, empowerment and integration, as well as their emotional, physical, mental, spiritual and sexual well-being.

Authentic Tantra® practices can be applied to a wide variety of fields.

The Company recognizes and encourages that members may work in differing fields and contexts. These broadly encompass therapeutic or personal development coaching for individuals, couples and groups, sex education, somatic and hands on treatment.

The Company also acknowledges and encourages AT Practitioners weave their skills in with other coaching or treatment modalities such as psychotherapy, coaching, education, somatic modalities such as massage therapy, physical therapy, movement and dance therapy, breath work and/or energy work such as shiatsu and Reiki, to the extent that these other methods are consistent with Authentic Tantra® practices.

When combining Authentic Tantra® methods with other modalities, AT Practitioners agree to clearly define to their Clients which methods fall under the umbrella of Authentic Tantra®.

While the specific Authentic Tantra® methods used may vary between practitioners, Clients, or between different sessions with the same Client, the Code applies equally to all work-related professional activities, including individual or group work, teaching, training, assisting, supervision and consulting and provides a common set of values upon which AT Practitioners continually build their professional work.

The term 'Client' in the Code refers any person or corporate entity that is paying for services or undertaking a free or reduced price session from an AT Practitioner.

This Code is intended to provide both the general principles and the rules covering most situations encountered by AT Practitioners. It has as its primary goal the welfare and protection of the individuals and groups with whom AT Practitioners work.

It is the individual responsibility of each AT Practitioner to aspire to the highest possible standards of conduct. AT Practitioners respect and protect human, civil and sexual rights, and do not knowingly participate in or condone unfair discriminatory practices.

Becoming an Authentic Tantra® Practitioner requires a personal commitment to a lifelong effort to behave ethically; and to encourage ethical behavior by fellow AT Practitioners in the Sangha, Teacher Trainers and Students, as appropriate; and to consult with others as needed concerning ethical problems.

The Code is not exhaustive. The fact that a given conduct is not specifically addressed by the Code does not mean that it is necessarily either ethical or unethical.

In the process of making decisions regarding their professional behavior, AT Practitioners must consider this Code, in addition to the requirements of law.

When the Code establishes a higher standard than codes of law, AT Practitioners must meet the higher ethical standard. If the Code's standards appear to conflict with the requirements of law, AT Practitioners must take steps to resolve the conflict in a responsible manner.

The actions the Company may take for an AT Practitioner's violation of the Code include, without limitation, withdrawal of certification and termination of the Certified Licensing Agreement, upon which the AT Practitioner loses any and all entitlement to refer to themselves as Authentic Tantra® Practitioners and the right to use, display, or teach any of the Authentic Tantra® methods learned through IATE.

IATE ETHICAL CODES OF CONDUCT

1. AT Practitioners will be professional in attitude and conduct, responsible in relations with Clients and colleagues, reliable in agreements and timely in appointment schedules.
2. AT Practitioners agree that they have read and understood the provisions of the Code of Ethics. They represent the standards to which AT Practitioners aspire and will abide to the best of their ability. Further,

AT Practitioners agree to be held accountable to their colleagues for any actions that deviate from its standards.

3. AT Practitioners recognize the importance of consent and choice in all professional interactions with individuals and groups. AT Practitioners will strive to provide a range of options from which the Client can actively elect that will serve their own growth. At no time shall a Client be required or coerced to participate in any activity, event or exercise. AT Practitioners inform their clients about consent and choice, withdrawal of consent, and create supportive learning environments where clients are empowered to exercise those skills.

4. AT Practitioners may use physical touch if they deem it reasonable and appropriate in a particular situation. If they do so, they shall touch consciously and with the attitude to do no harm, with concern for the client's growth, for the safety of both/all parties and to honor the agreed upon boundaries established. AT Practitioners agree to obtain both verbal and written consent from Clients before engaging in any form of bodywork, and to explain to the Client how to effectively withdraw consent.

5. Regarding Sexual Contact with Clients as part of Tantric Sexual Healing;

- a. Sessions are Client-centered and the Clients' boundaries are of primary importance.
- b. AT Practitioners acknowledge the importance of maintaining and respecting agreed upon boundaries. Boundaries are to be discussed, agreed and set at the beginning of each session. Honoring boundaries also includes stopping touch when Clients request it, whether expressly or impliedly.
- c. The Company highly discourages boundaries being renegotiated in the midst of hands on sessions due to the potential fragility and vulnerability of the Client. However, AT Practitioners are encouraged to critically assess a Client's needs continually during a healing session. If boundaries are renegotiated during a session it must be done with express mutual verbal and physical consent, and the AT Practitioner is required to obtain the express written documentation of that renegotiated consent at the end of the session.
- d. AT Practitioners understand the inherent inequality of power we hold relative to Clients in our role of practitioner/teacher and agree not to use this power for the sexual exploitation of Clients.
- e. AT Practitioners agree that they will not seek to meet their erotic appetites through their Clients. AT Practitioners shall remain conscious of this code and shall make reasonable efforts to make Clients conscious that sessions will neither fulfill the AT Practitioner's, nor their Client's desire for romantic sexual connection.
- f. AT Practitioners agree not to have any form of sexual contact or relationship with Clients outside of sessions, in any manner whatsoever. Within a session, AT Practitioner agrees to limit sexual contact to using their hands to administer a sexual healing session; the use of oral sex, intercourse or any other sexual act beyond yoni massage and lingam massage is prohibited.

- g. When attraction occurs within the professional relationship (either from Client towards practitioner or from practitioner towards Client) the AT Practitioner agrees to discuss the attraction during professional supervision sessions with the aim of maintaining clear professional boundaries and protecting the Client's ability to access the work.

5. Additionally, AT Practitioners will not meet their needs for emotional connection, psychological support or sexual desire through their clients. The Practitioner/Client relationship will focus on meeting the client's needs and agreed upon goals.

6. AT Practitioners acknowledge the importance of physical, in addition to emotional, mental, spiritual and sexual well-being. To protect the health of both Client and practitioner, AT Practitioners are encouraged to discuss any potential health risks with hands-on clients, as well as taking all necessary precautions.

7. AT Practitioners must consider the limits of their skills and experience before accepting requests for or providing services to potential Clients.

8. AT Practitioners will terminate professional relationships with Clients when such services no longer serve the needs and interests of the Clients. AT Practitioners may unilaterally terminate services on just and reasonable grounds after careful consideration of all situational factors provided that the AT Practitioner makes appropriate referrals for the Client to provide support to the Client during such a transition.

9. AT Practitioners will refrain from working in a professional capacity while under the influence of any inebriating or mind-altering substances, including without limitation prescription medications. AT Practitioners will not provide services to clients who are knowingly under the influence of any inebriating or mind altering substances.

10. AT Practitioners will refrain from the exploitation of professional relationships with Clients, whether current or past, for personal gain, whether financial, professional, emotional, sexual or for research purposes.

11. AT Practitioners will respect, defend and strictly preserve the privacy of all information gained or received from Clients. AT Practitioners will preserve the anonymity of Clients when using information for purposes of teaching, research and supervision.

12. AT Practitioners co-facilitate the increased awareness and practice of ancient Tibetan 5 element teachings and Authentic Tantra® practices in the world, intended to fill the public need for accurate information and embodied learning opportunities. Any public representation by an AT Practitioner shall be respectful and in integrity with this Code and shall have the intention of furthering the motivation of these teachings and the Authentic Tantra® practices.

13. AT Practitioners may directly contact, in a constructive and positive manner, any AT community member about whom they have ethical concerns. Alternatively, or additionally, practitioners may contact the Institute of Authentic Tantra Education Ltd. Board of Directors regarding their concerns.

14. AT Practitioners will aid the Institute of Authentic Tantra Education Ltd. in upholding this Code, the integrity of the Authentic Tantra® practices, and co-operate fully with any investigation of suspected violations.

15. AT Practitioners will refrain from solicitation of colleague's Clients.

16. AT Practitioners will encourage appropriate communication between Clients and their current or recent therapists.

17. If an AT Practitioner chooses to terminate his or her association with the brand Authentic Tantra® and the Company, Institute of Authentic Tantra Education Ltd., and sever themselves from any provision of the Authentic Tantra® Code of Ethics and/or Ethical Code of Conduct, they agree to provide immediate written notification to the Company and to abandon their title as a Certified Authentic Tantra® Practitioner, which shall be deemed written notification of the termination of the Certification Licensing Agreement, invoking all other requirements resulting from termination of the Certification Licensing Agreement.

18. Should conflict arise amongst AT Practitioners, whether as part of a training session or within a personal context, the parties agree to seek resolution to their conflict, including but not limited to mediation, in such a way as the conflict and the resolution thereof does not adversely affect Clients or the brand Authentic Tantra®.

19. AT Practitioners are encouraged to display the official IATE Ltd. Authentic Tantra® Certification seal on their website and promotional materials to identify themselves as Certified Practitioners, in accordance with the Certification Licensing Agreement. The above referenced seal may be used on approved promotional materials, as long as what is being promoted is primarily an Authentic Tantra® method. The IATE Ltd. logo may not be used in any other way without prior express written consent from the Company.

Name _____

Date: _____