

National Spiritualist Association of Churches

NSAC Code of Ethics

For Board Members, Ministers, Teachers, Mediums, Healers, Missionaries, Youth Workers, Pastors, and Lay Ministers in the National Spiritualist Association of Churches (NSAC)

Note: When the word Ministry is capitalized, it denotes an Ordained Minister. Otherwise, the word minister or ministry shall be construed to refer to all levels of commission/certification as well as lay ministers. Lay ministry shall be defined as including Licentiate Ministers, Boards of Directors or Trustees, and all other persons in positions of authority or leadership in the NSAC organization.

Section I – Premises

As members of NSAC, we are committed to the Declaration of Principles, traditions, and values of this community and to the dignity and work of everyone. We hold ourselves to the high standards of professional conduct and competence. We are accountable for our service and ministry, whatever its setting, through the acceptance and practice of the principles and procedures of this Code of Ethics.

To uphold our standards as members of NSAC, we agree to accept the following premises:

- a. Be responsible for maintaining the standards of NSAC;
- b. Not discriminate against or refuse employment, educational opportunity, or professional assistance to anyone based on race, age, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin;
- c. Continue our growth and active participation in the religion and business of the Association; and
- d. Manage our personal lives in a manner appropriate to the teachings and understanding of Spiritualism.

Section II – Professional Practices

As members of the leadership and working ministry of NSAC, we agree to accept the following in all professional matters of the ministry:

- a. Remain current of new developments through educational and community activities;
- b. Avoid situations which could lead to a loss of perspective and judgment;
- c. Provide assistance when requested within our scope of competence and have a working knowledge of our obligation to report child abuse, spousal abuse, and exploitation of vulnerable adults, including but not limited to abuse, neglect, and abandonment. Make these reports to the appropriate agency or individual in accordance with state and local laws;
- d. Establish and maintain appropriate professional relationship boundaries;
- e. Use our position for the benefit of the people we serve and not to secure unfair personal advantage;
- f. Clearly represent our level of the ministry and limit our practice to that level;

- g. Always discuss fees and financial arrangements at the onset, in a straight forward and professional manner;
- h. Be prepared to render service to individuals and communities in crisis without regard to financial remuneration;
- i. Conduct our personal affairs in a manner to not reflect poorly on NSAC;
- j. Represent facts truthfully;
- k. Not engage in maligning peers or other professionals.

Section III – Pastoral Relationships/Counseling

As members of the working ministry of NSAC, we agree to adhere to the following professional behavior:

- a. Not abandon or neglect church members;
- b. In the event we are unable to provide professional assistance, make every reasonable effort to arrange for continuation of service with another professional;
- c. Make only realistic statements regarding the pastoral counseling process and its outcome, inclusive of healing, mediumship, and teachings;
- d. Continue counseling relationships only so long as it is reasonably clear that the parties are benefitting from the relationship;
- e. Do not exploit the trust and dependency of others;
- f. Do not engage in dual relationships with others which could impair our professional judgment or compromise the integrity of the pastoral agreement; and
- g. Avoid engaging in negative behavior.

Section IV – Confidentiality

As members of the leadership and working ministry of NSAC, we agree to the following principles of confidentiality:

- a. That pastoral ministers retain all notes and records of pastoral interaction/intervention in a locked safe place, and dispose of same as appropriate;
- b. That pastoral ministers will not release information to third parties without the expressed written consent of those served or the order of a court of competent jurisdiction;

- c. Maintain parishioners' confidences except as mandated by law;
- d. Obtain written permission from all legally accountable persons who have been present during the counseling before any disclosure can be made;
- e. Obtain informed written consent of individuals before audio and/or video tape recording or third-party observation of their sessions; and
- f. Obtain informed written consent to use current or former clients/members in the production of publications, while teaching or in a public presentation, unless the identity is thoroughly disguised.

Section V – Inter-Professional Relationships

As members of the leadership and working ministry of NSAC, we agree to the following principles of inter-professional relationships:

- a. Exercise care and inter-professional courtesy when approached for services by persons who are or were in relationship with another professional or non-professional counselor.

Section VI – Advertising

As members of the leadership and working ministry of NSAC, we agree to the following principles regarding advertising, announcements, public statements, and promotional activities:

- a. Refrain from misrepresenting our professional qualifications, affiliations, and functions;
- b. Refrain from public statements which contain any false, misleading, or unfair statements or testimonials;
- c. Refrain from misrepresentation of fact by false or partial disclosure;
- d. Refrain from statements intended or likely to create a false expectation of favorable results;
- e. Refrain from statements implying unusual, unique, or one-of-a-kind abilities;
- f. Refrain from statements intended or likely to exploit a person's fears, anxieties, or emotions;
- g. Provide legitimate, reasonable information to describe yourself or your service, including name, highest relevant academic degree earned, date, type and level of certification or licensure, NSAC membership level, public contact information, brief review of services offered, and language spoken;

- h. All advertisements or announcements for workshops, seminars, development classes or similar services and endeavors, are to give a statement of purpose and clear description of the experiences to be provided.

Section VII – Breach of Code of Ethics

Nothing in this Code of Ethics is to be used for, construed to, or otherwise insulate individuals from appropriate Disciplinary Procedures or Criminal Action where appropriate.

As members of the leadership and working ministry of NSAC, we agree to the following procedures to address a potential breach of the Code of Ethics:

- a. When appropriate, a Minister who observes what he or she perceives as a code violation, may approach the individual deemed to have committed the breach and raise the potential breach in a tactful and constructive manner, as an informal means of correcting the behavior;
- b. If this does not correct the matter, if the informal method is not appropriate to the situation, or if the person alleging the breach is not a Minister, the matter will be reported to the Church Board, State Association, or NSAC for action;
- c. Where an investigation is required, the matter will be referred to the NSAC Code of Ethics Review Committee, who will be bound by all restrictions of confidentiality normally associated with such activity;
- d. The Code of Ethics Review Committee will make recommendation to the NSAC Board of Trustees, who shall have final jurisdiction over all actions taken; and
- e. Recommendations of the Code of Ethics Review Committee may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 1. dismissal of code violation;
 2. letter of reprimand;
 3. supervision of the individual;
 4. enforced sabbatical, length to be determined by the NSAC Board of Trustees;
 5. further education; and
 6. referral to the Disciplinary Procedure according to the current NSAC Bylaws.

Approved April 2018	Signature	_____
NSAC Board of Trustees	Printed name	_____
Adopted October 2018	Date signed	_____