

SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS

BYLAW XIII – ETHICS

Every member shall comply with the Code of Ethics contained in Schedule I to these bylaws.

SCHEDULE 1

CODE OF ETHICS

Note: Any words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa and words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine and neuter genders and vice versa wherever the context so requires.

The preservation of the highest standards of integrity and ethical principles is vital to the successful discharge of the responsibilities of all members.

Members practising in the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology should be in good standing in their professional organization.

The failure to specify any particular responsibility or practice in this Code of Ethics should not be construed as denial of the existence of other responsibilities or practices that are really important. Any act that is in violation of the spirit and purpose of this Code of Ethics shall be unethical practice.

The ethical responsibilities of the members require that the welfare of those served professionally be considered paramount.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Client and the Public

1. A Speech-Language Pathologist/Audiologist who engages in clinical practice must be a practising member of the Saskatchewan Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.
2. Members must not attempt to provide assessment/diagnostic or treatment services for which they have not been adequately prepared, nor may they misrepresent their training or competence.
3. Members must not allow students or supportive personnel to render services unless adequate supervision is provided and full responsibility is assumed by the member, nor may members require such personnel to enter in activities which contravene the Code of Ethics or the Laws of the Land.

**SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS
AND AUDIOLOGISTS**

BYLAW XIII – ETHICS

4. Members must not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, marital status, age or disability in their professional relationships with their colleagues or clients. They may, however, decide to limit their area of practice by age or diagnosis.
5. Members should assist in the education of the public regarding speech, language and hearing problems and other matters lying within their professional competence.
6. Members will respect the intrinsic worth of clients and act to ensure through reasonable advocacy and other intervention activities that their dignity, individuality and rights are safeguarded. Members will not exploit relationships with clients, supervisors, students, employees or research participants in any manner. Members will not condone nor engage in sexual harassment
7. Members must not exploit those served professionally by:
 - a) providing unnecessary or futile services including administering unnecessary assessment/diagnostic tests, accepting persons for treatment where benefit cannot reasonably be expected to accrue and continuing treatment where benefit cannot be reasonably expected;
 - b) charging a fee that is excessive in relation to the service provided. A member in private practice shall provide to those served a complete schedule of professional fees and charges in advance of rendering a professional service;
 - c) guaranteeing the results of any professional consultative or therapeutic procedure, directly, or by implication. This rule does not prevent a member from providing a reasonable statement regarding prognosis; and
 - d) prescribing prosthetic or augmentative devices where benefit cannot reasonably be expected to accrue.
8. Members must avoid primary assessment or treatment of those with human communication disorders by correspondence or electronic media. This does not include the follow-up care of clients nor does it include the provision of general information of an educational nature.
9. Members must utilize every available resource by initiating appropriate referral to other professionals whose knowledge may contribute to the diagnosis! treatment and/or treatment of those served.
10. Members unable to examine or treat a person promptly shall provide that person with information regarding other sources of assistance.
11. Members must take every precaution to avoid injury to those served professionally.
12. A member shall provide to each client reasonable information regarding the nature and treatment of the client's communication disorder and the professional services that the member has provided or proposes to provide to the client.

SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS

BYLAW XIII – ETHICS

13. A member shall not give information concerning a client's condition or any professional services performed for a client to any person other than the client without the consent of the client or his/her legal guardian/representative unless required to do so by law or the association. Case material, case records or audiovisual material shall not be used in teaching or mass media communication in a way as to permit identification of those served without the written consent of those served or their legal guardians/representatives. Where appropriate, identifying information will be eliminated.
14. When dealing with children, the parent! guardian must provide a valid legal consent to the service being provided, unless the child is mature enough to provide such consent, in which case the consent must be obtained from the child.

Duties and Responsibilities to the Profession

15. Members must not accept compensation in any form for making or accepting a referral.
16. A member must not engage in a conflict of interest which includes:
 - a) using inaccurate or misleading means to promote the sale or distribution of a particular product or service;
 - b) accepting gratuities in the form of gifts, travel or expense payments which are contingent upon product sales/promotions, from a manufacturer or dealer of professionally related products;
 - c) wilfully selling inferior or unnecessary products or by charging exorbitant fees for products.
17. Members must not engage in clinical practice for any commercial manufacturer, distributor or publisher of speech-language pathology and/or audiology related goods, though such members may be employed by such companies provided that duties are consultative, scientific, or educational in nature.
18. Members must not advertise in such a way that commercial notices mislead the public, misrepresent the professions, endorse commercial products, deprecate the skills of other professionals or in any way violate this Canon.

Professional advertising may utilize a listing in the business section of the telephone directory, an announcement of services available in the appropriate media and/or professional cards. Announcements may include the name of the practitioner, type of practice engaged in, qualifications, description of experience, place of employment, office hours, address and telephone number. While members may state their certification and their provincial licensure/registration, they must not advertise their membership with the association in any other manner.

**SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS
AND AUDIOLOGISTS**

BYLAW XIII – ETHICS

19. Members should establish harmonious relations with members of other professions, endeavouring to inform others concerning the services that can be rendered by members of the speech, language and hearing professions, and in turn should seek information from members of related professions.
20. Members must not dishonour the reputation of the professions by:
 - a) depreciating the skill, knowledge or services of colleagues;
 - b) nullifying professional contractual agreements without just cause;
 - c) failing to freely accept the self-regulation of the professions;
 - d) failing to observe the Laws of the Land.
21. Members should seek to advance services for the communicatively impaired and assist in establishing high professional standards for such programs.
22. Members will first communicate to associates through recognized scientific channels, the results of any research or development in order that those associates may establish an opinion of its merits before it is presented to the public.
23. Members have a responsibility to, and should assist in, maintaining the integrity of the profession and should participate in its activities.
24. Members have the responsibility to advise and co-operate with the professional conduct and discipline committees in instances of violation of the principles incorporated in this Code.
25. Members conduct towards other members should be characterized by courtesy and good faith.

General

26. No member shall engage in conduct or an act relevant to practice of speech language pathology or audiology that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as unprofessional.
27. Observance of this Code of Ethics is a condition of membership in the Saskatchewan Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.