

DRAFT
CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

For

**The Saskatchewan Association of Spiritual Care Professionals
In
Health Care**

Prologue

Members of the Saskatchewan Association of Spiritual Care Professionals (hereafter referred to as SASCP affirm the dignity and worth of each person and respect the right of each faith group to hold its values and traditions. In all spiritual care, whatever the setting, we hold ourselves accountable to the standards of professional competence and conduct stated in this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (hereafter referred to as the Code). As members we knowingly and willingly enter into a *membership covenant*, the values and beliefs of which are contained within this document. Adherence to this covenant is deemed to be a necessary and vital component of membership in SASCP.

This Code is founded on the following values and beliefs; that

- A. We maintain responsible association with the faith group in which we have standing.
- B. We show sensitive regard for the differences of race, culture, nationality, sexual orientation, gender, age and religion of other individuals and societies. We show sensitive regard for the physically and mentally challenged.
- C. We are committed to continuing education to enrich our professional competence.
- D. We seek out and engage in collegial relationships, within and beyond the health care team, recognizing that isolation can lead to a loss of perspective and judgment.
- E. We are committed to the spiritual development both of ourselves, and of those to whom we provide spiritual care.
- F. We strive to manage our personal lives in a healthful fashion and seek appropriate assistance for our own personal problems and conflicts.
- G. We provide spiritual care, recognizing the limitations of our scope of practice and our personal competencies and make appropriate referrals.

H. We establish and maintain appropriate professional relationship boundaries.

Principles

In all professional matters members of SASCP maintain practices that protect the public and advance the profession.

A. Practice of Spiritual Care

1. We use our knowledge and professional associations for the benefit of the people we serve and not to secure personal advantage.
2. We represent ourselves accurately limiting our practice to our areas of competence.

B. Educational and Working Relationships

We, who are in a position of authority and responsibility maintain a concern for the integrity and **well-being** of patients/residents/clients under our care. We recognize the power imbalance that exists and do not abuse the trust of former and current patients/residents/clients, students, supervisees or employees. To this end:

1. We do not engage in any form of sexual impropriety with patients, residents or clients in our care regardless of invitation or consent. Sexual impropriety is defined as, but not limited to, all forms of overt and covert seductive speech, gestures and behaviours, as well as explicitly sexual contact.
2. We regard all forms of harassment between supervisors, employees, patients, residents or clients in our care as unethical. Harassment is a form of violation which includes behaviour such as inappropriate demands, threats, gestures, innuendoes, remarks, jokes, slurs, displays of offensive material, physical assault or taunting about a person's body, clothing, habits, customs or mannerisms. Harassment can also include inappropriate or unwelcome attention to, or comments on, a person's physical characteristics or appearance.

C. Inter-Professional Relationships

We recognize that we are part of a network of professional caregivers and are expected to develop and maintain professional relationships. To this end:

1. We seek to support, respect and collaborate with other professionals.

2. We exercise care and professional protocol when receiving or initiating referrals.

D. Confidentiality

As members of SASCP we respect the integrity and protect the **well-being** of all persons to whom we are providing spiritual care and have an obligation to safeguard information about them that has been obtained in the course of our care giving.

1. We pledge to maintain the standards of confidentiality as set out in our places of employment.
2. We regard all communications from those to whom we provide spiritual care with the highest professional confidence.
3. We do not disclose confidences to anyone, except: as mandated by institutional practice or law; to prevent a clear and immediate danger to someone; in the course of a civil, criminal or disciplinary action arising where the member is a defendant; for the purposes of supervision or consultation; or by previously obtained written permission.
4. We do not use these standards of confidentiality to avoid disclosure when there is evidence of abuse.

E. Advertising

Any advertising by or for a member of SASCP including announcements, public statements and promotional activities, is undertaken with the purpose of helping the public make informed judgment and choices.

1. We do not misrepresent our professional qualifications, affiliations and functions, or falsely imply sponsorship or certification by any organization.

F. Research

When conducting research, we follow the guidelines stipulated by the Institution/**region** within which that research is carried out. At all times we ensure that the patient, resident or client, or any other subject is fully informed and consents to the research and is not harmed by the research.

G. Grievances - process