



ETHICAL STANDARDS IN HYPNOSIS

CLINICAL WORKSHOP

LEVEL 1

September, 2026 1



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CONTINUING EDUCATION & ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

- ▶ This program has been approved by the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis Standards of Training Committee to be used toward Membership and Certification requirements.
- ▶ The American Society of Clinical Hypnosis-Education and Research Foundation (ASCH-ERF) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.
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 - ▶ *For an in-depth definition of what constitutes a financial relationship, please visit the ACCME at <https://accme.org/rule/identify-mitigate-and-disclose-relevant-financial-relationships/>*
- ▶ Dr. Willmarth has not used AI in the development of this program/materials.



ETHICAL PRINCIPLES, PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, AND CERTIFICATION

Recommended Learning Objectives:

- A. Describe ethical-legal issues and standards for professional conduct in using hypnosis clinically.
- B. Introduce certification requirements in clinical hypnosis, and the desirability of and requirements for advanced certification through taking diplomate board examinations
- C. Recognize the immense value of belonging to the professional associations that teach and esteem clinical hypnosis.



CODE OF ETHICS

- ▶ Intent of ethics is to be a system of moral and professional code of conduct

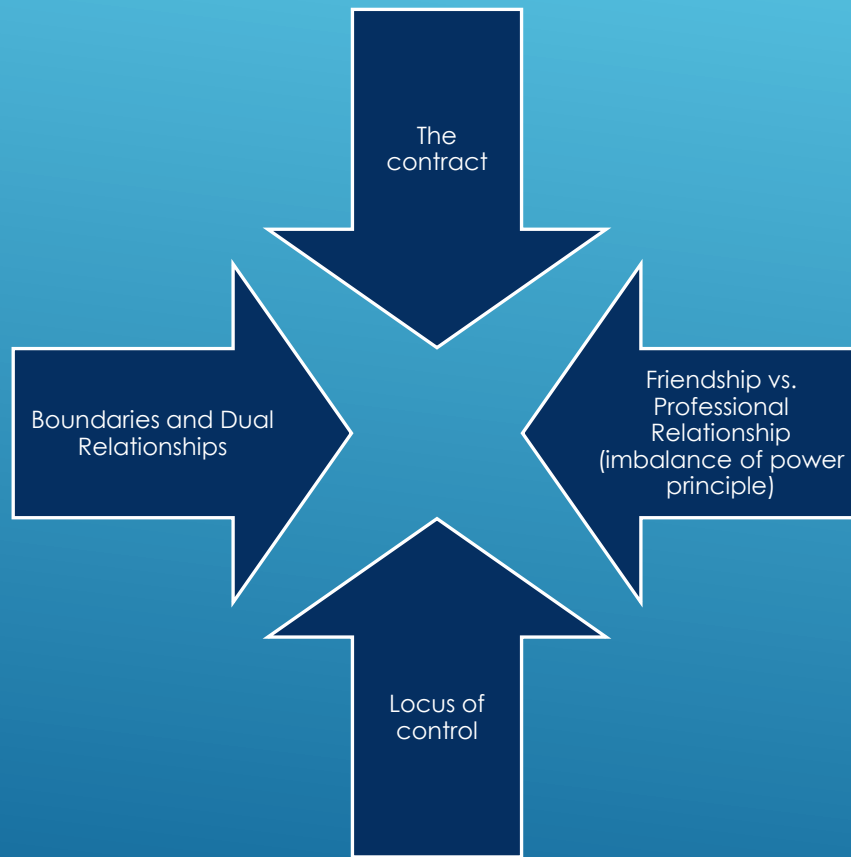
Know the code of ethics of your primary professional affiliation and (specifically regarding hypnosis) of ASCH or SCEH

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ASCH CODE OF CONDUCT

- ▶ Representation of one's hypnosis services to the public
- ▶ Practicing within the bounds of one's license and discipline (Only use hypnosis in areas you would be prepared to treat without hypnosis)
- ▶ Responsibility for public education
- ▶ Continuing education
- ▶ Informed consent
- ▶ Teaching hypnosis to others

PRACTITIONER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP



- ▶ Responsibility and Authority
- ▶ Creation of Therapeutic Goals (3 criteria of acceptable goals: appealing, beneficial, seem possible)
- ▶ Referrals
- ▶ Hypnotic relationships are professional relationships, even in context of workshops

- ▶ Misdiagnosis (beware of missing organic diagnoses)
- ▶ Touch
- ▶ Heightened transference
- ▶ Availability of unconscious material
- ▶ Legal issues--memory debate

SPECIFIC CONCERNS OF CLIENT-THERAPIST RELATIONSHIP





**Stage hypnosis can result in
damage to ego-strength of
subject. Always speak up
against hypnosis being used
for entertainment!**

STAY CONNECTED TO APA, ASCH ,SCEH, ETC.

- ▶ While anyone can learn hypnosis, it takes a great deal of skill and training to use hypnosis appropriately and effectively in clinical practice!





THE NINE UNIVERSAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Nonmaleficence --Do no harm



THE NINE UNIVERSAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Accepting Accountability – responsibility for actions



THE NINE UNIVERSAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Respecting Autonomy - Allowing client choice



THE NINE UNIVERSAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Beneficence - Creating positive effects



THE NINE UNIVERSAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Being Just – Fairness, equity



THE NINE UNIVERSAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Fidelity - Loyalty to those served, honesty



THE NINE UNIVERSAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- ▶ According Dignity - Respect



THE NINE UNIVERSAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Treating others with Care and Compassion
 - ▶ Kindness, consideration



THE NINE UNIVERSAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Pursuing Excellence – doing your best,
 - ▶ Maintaining competence

Questions



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