STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL & ETHICAL CONDUCT

The Board sets standards for the professional practice of psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy and certifies individuals on the basis of these standards. The Board promotes the quality and efficacy of psychodrama practice in the United States of America. This mission encompasses the maintenance of ethical conduct and fair client, trainee and trainer practices without discrimination in regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, handicapping conditions, gender, and sexual orientation. To fulfill this obligation, the Board has the responsibility to study and adjudicate complaints of practices allegedly detrimental to this mission. The adjudication process seeks to uphold standards of practice by psychodramatists and to secure a means of redress for aggrieved parties.

The fundamental objective of a Code of Ethics shall be to maintain ethical conduct by certified psychodramatists at the highest professional level, to educate certified psychodramatists considering ethical standards, to endeavor to protect the public against harmful conduct by certified psychodramatists, and to aid the Board in achieving its objectives through the continuous quality improvement and development of a Code of Ethics and Policies and Procedures for the Investigation and Resolution of Ethical Complaints. Of course, in no circumstance can or does the Board guarantee that unethical behavior will not occur or that members of the public will never be harmed by the action of individual certified psychodramatists.

Each individual certified psychodramatist is expected to view ethical responsibility and conduct as an integral and essential component in the professional delivery of services to others. The Code does not represent a set of rules or conserves which will prescribe behavior in complex professional situations, but rather represents general principles to guide professional conduct. The Code does offer specific prohibitions regarding situations and relationships that have proven to be detrimental to the psychodramatist and others. In the final analysis, the ethical behavior of psychodramatists results from a personal and professional commitment to excellence, integrity and competency.

As an interim measure, the Board has adopted the Code of Ethics of the American Psychological Association. The Board has developed its own Policies and Procedures for the Investigation and Resolution of Ethical Complaints. Upon written request, any individual may receive free of charge a copy of the Code of Ethics, and Board Policies and Procedures for the Investigation and Resolution of Ethical Complaints.