



Vitality for Life  
HEALTH CENTER

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### **Massage Therapy Ethics**

Every client has the right to feel protected, and in so stating, all Registered Massage Therapists are accountable to the public and are governed by a ruling body, the CMTO or College of Massage Therapists of Ontario who in turn reports to the Provincial Government.

For Massage Therapists to be a Regulated Health Profession within the province of Ontario The Ontario government requires that the profession have a ruling body in place whose sole responsibility is to protect the public. The College is responsible for receiving, processing and investigating complaints, as well as creating and maintaining Standards of Practice and a Code of Ethics to which all Massage Therapists are legally obligated to abide by. These Standards and Codes are in place so the client can feel safe knowing that their interests and safety come foremost and that, ethically, they will be treated equally by all Registered Massage Therapists.

### **CMTO's (College of Massage Therapists of Ontario) Mission Statement**

(CMTO Code of Ethics-Standards of Practice 1999)

“The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario protects and serves the public by guaranteeing the competency and quality of services provided by massage therapists through maintenance of Standards and Regulations”

“We operate in a manner which encourages innovation, and which elicits a sense of pride in the job and commitment to results through the Council. We will dedicate ourselves to improving our performance through focusing on group and individual goal setting, effective performance measurement and regular feedback. We will be guided in all that we do by our primary focus – to protect the public.”

### **Code of Ethics for Massage Therapy** (CMTO Code of Ethics-Standards of Practice 1999)

What is a code of ethics? A Code of ethics is a statement which expresses the primary ethical values, obligations and goals of the profession. It is a commitment which serves to bear witness to our promise as a profession to uphold the values and ethical obligations expressed in the Code.

Why do we need a Code of Ethics? A Code of Ethics gives definition to our commitment to practice in ethical terms. As regulated health professionals, we have made a promise to society to accept the responsibility and maintain the trust with which we have been invested.

What does a Code of Ethics do? It lays out clearly the massage therapy profession's values and explains what they are in terms of what we ought to do in order to protect and promote the public good, and what we must avoid doing in order to prevent harm to the public.

To whom does this Code apply? Massage Therapists who act as practitioners, educators, researchers, administrators or policy makers are all expected to maintain a commitment to massage therapy values and to follow the principles outlined in this Code.

### **Standards of Practice for Massage Therapy** (CMTO Code of Ethics-Standards of Practice 1999)

The Standards of Practice for Massage Therapists have been developed by the CMTO as a commitment to the protection of the public through their development and use. They are intended to be generic and have been developed to describe the outcomes of various tasks the Therapist is required and expected to perform within the Scope of Practice. These Standards of Practice will evolve as changes in practice evolve.

### **Confidentiality Statement** (CMTO Code of Ethics-Standards of Practice 1999)

Massage Therapists are advised that giving information about a client to any person except as required or allowed by law or except to facilitate diagnosis or treatment of a client is considered to be a professional misconduct under the Professional Misconduct Regulations.

"The practitioners at VFL are passionate about helping people. If you know of anyone who could benefit from our services please tell them about us. The referral of your family and friends is the standard by which we measure our success - thank you!"

