

## **Therapist Rights and Responsibilities**

1. A Therapist shall limit practice to the areas of competence in which proficiency has been gained through education and training or experience.
2. A Therapist shall accurately represent areas of competence, education, training, experience, and professional affiliations of the Therapist to Central Minnesota Mental Health Center (CMMHC), the public and colleagues.
3. In cases in which a new service, technique, or specialty is developing, a therapist shall engage in ongoing consultation with other Therapists or similar professionals as skills are developed in the new area and shall seek continuing education which corresponds to the new area. A client whose treatment involves the use of a newly developing service, technique, or specialty shall be informed of its innovative nature and of known risks associated with it.
4. A Therapist shall recognize that there are other professional, technical, and administrative resources available to clients and make referrals to those resources when it is in the best interests of clients to be provided with alternative or complementary services.
5. A Therapist shall safeguard the private information obtained in the course of practice, teaching, or research. In any situation in which services of a Therapist are requested by one party of another party, the Therapist shall inform both the requester and the receiver of the services of the responsibility of the Therapist regarding the privacy of information gained in the course of rendering the services.
6. At the beginning of a professional relationship, a Therapist shall inform the client who is a minor of the limit the law imposes on the right of privacy of a minor with respect to communications of a minor with a Therapist.
7. A Therapist shall limit access to client records and shall inform every person associated with the agency or facility of the Therapist, such as a staff member, student, volunteer, or community aide, that access of client records shall be limited only to the Therapist with whom the client has a professional relationship, a person associated with the agency or facility whose duties require access, and a person authorized to have access by the informed written consent from the client.
8. A Therapist shall instruct the staff to inquire of clients and comply with the wishes of clients regarding to whom and where statements for services are to be sent.
9. Case reports or other clinical materials used in teaching, professional meetings, or publications shall be disguised so that no identification of the individual occurs.
10. Diagnostic interviews or therapeutic sessions with a client may be observed or electronically recorded only with informed written consent of the client.
11. A Therapist shall continue to maintain as private information the records of a client after the professional relationship between the Therapist and the client has ceased.

12. A Therapist must not undertake or continue a professional relationship with a client in which the objectivity of the therapist is or would be impaired due to a familial, social, emotional, economic, supervisory or political interpersonal relationship. A Therapist whose objectivity becomes impaired because of the development of a listed interpersonal relationship during a professional relationship with a client shall notify the client orally and in writing that the Therapist shall no longer see the client professionally, begin termination of the relationship, and assist the client in obtaining services from another Therapist.
13. A Therapist must not undertake or continue a professional relationship with a client in which the objectivity or effectiveness is or would be impaired due to the divorce, grief reaction, severe health problem, or chemical abuse or dependency of the Therapist. A Therapist whose objectivity or effectiveness becomes impaired during a professional relationship with a client because of such a personal problem shall notify the client orally and in writing that the Therapist shall no longer see the client professionally, begin termination of the relationship, and assist the client in obtaining services from another Therapist.
14. The Therapist has a right to expect fair and respectful treatment from a client. The Therapist can refuse to treat a client who uses threats, verbal abuse, or physical violence.