



MessageToday

AN MPA MEDIA PUBLICATION

WEBCASTS

CONTACT

SUBSCRIBE

FIND A THERAPIST

ASK A THERAPIST

CALENDAR

Search:

GO

Zip Code

Find

Advanced Search



Confusion Reigns

I'd like to just steal Sandy ...

NCBTMB Call for Comments: 911 for CE Providers

Post navigation ← Previous ...

MOCC-ERY Redux

I have received the following ...



Research Column

BLOG MASSAGENERD
Now on MessageToday.com

quick links

CURRENT ISSUE
PREVIOUS ISSUES
NEWS
INDUSTRY NEWS
COLUMNISTS

newsletter

MT NEWS UPDATE
MT TO YOUR HEALTH
MT DEALS & EVENTS

BECOME A FAN

Follow us on **twitter**

resources

ABOUT MT
AUTHOR GUIDELINES
CLASSIFIEDS
EDITORIAL CALENDAR
MEDIA GUIDE
MESSAGE MART
SCHOOLS & EDUCATION
FEEDBACK



Message Today
August, 2002, Vol. 02, Issue 08

Share |



0

Ethics, Values and Principles

By Ben Benjamin, PhD

Editor's note: This month's column is excerpted from the forthcoming book *The Ethics of Touch*, authored by Dr. Benjamin and fellow *Message Today* columnist Cherie Sohnen-Moe.

Ethics is the study of moral principles and appropriate conduct.



This can be applied to individuals, groups or professions. In general, ethics in somatic therapies involve behaving honorably; adhering to prevailing laws; upholding the dignity of the profession; respecting each client; staying committed to high-quality care; working within the appropriate scope of practice; being client-centered; and remaining service-oriented.

Values are tangible and intangible convictions an individual considers of intrinsic worth. Values are based upon beliefs and attitudes; they involve what is desirable, rather than what is right and correct. For example, while you know the worth of your services and believe in receiving a fair fee, you also may

value making your services accessible to everyone, regardless of their economic means, and therefore incorporate a sliding scale into your fee structure. Individuals don't necessarily agree on what is worthy as a "value" and may change their own value structure many times.

Principles comprise an individual's code of action and enable a person to behave with integrity. The person of principle modifies her or his behavior so that each action arises from a deeply held sense of self. For example, a person who acts upon the principle of honest financial dealings may be reflecting the core value of fairness and equality among people. Principles are therefore based at least in part upon one's values; they too may differ widely from one individual to another.

To be a massage therapist of the highest caliber, a practitioner must identify and be clear about what elements of professionalism are required to maintain an ethical practice. Professionalism is the quality of the image you convey. Professionalism stems from your attitudes and is manifested through your technical competency; your communication skills; your ability to manage boundaries; your respect for yourself and clients; and your business practices. The term professionalism is related to ethical behavior. High standards of action with our clients result in both ethical and professional behavior. Obviously, ethical violations are unprofessional; however, not all unprofessional behavior is unethical. For example, dressing in sloppy workout clothes when working with a client is unprofessional, but not unethical.

Click [here](#) for more information about Ben Benjamin, PhD.



Other Related Content

- Can There Really Be Too Much of a Good Thing? Never!
- How Do You Respond to Those "Game Changer" Moments?
- Learning to Create a Need for Your Clients
- Achieving More Than Just Working on One Person at a Time
- Massage Improves Range of Motion for Children with Burn Injuries
- Help in Understanding Parkinson's Disease, Part 1
- AMTA Releases Annual Research Results
- Positive Touch: An Approach to Stop Bullying
- It's Time to Spring Into Action
- The Future of the Profession and the Evolution of Massage



What factors contributed to you wanting to become a massage therapist?

- ☐ Personal experience with massage
- ☐ Experience of a friend/family member
- ☐ Belief in natural health/wellness
- ☐ Wanted to help people

[Submit](#) [Results](#)

1 comment

★ 0



Leave a message...

Best

Community

Share



[gervin gumola](#) • 2 months ago

what is the service of ethical principles

0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

MESSAGE POLL ARCHIVES

Browse Editorial Topics

Recent Activity



Helping Babies Heal from Difficult Births with CranioSacral Therapy

93 people recommended this.



The ABC's of Meeting with Physicians

3 people recommended this.

Facebook social plugin

Alternative Health News

Laser Acupuncture in Your Practice: What you Need to Know

Isn't it interesting that the number one reason people visit a healthcare provider is because of pain. Chronic pain affects about 100 million American adults—more than the total affected by heart disease, cancer, and diabetes combined.

Buy Massage Tables \$99

www.BestMassage.com

Get Free Accessories, High Quality Low Price and Moneyback Guarantees



To report inappropriate ads, [click here](#).

Archives

News
Current Issue
Previous Issues
Previous Graphs
Previous Polls
Previous Webcasts

Advertising

Advertiser Resource Center
Marketing Resource Center

Editorial

Editorial Resource Center

Just For Students

MT Schools & Programs

Important Links

Ask a Massage Therapist
Editorial Topics
To The Editor
Link To Us
Other Sources
Readership Survey

Media Guides

2013 MT Media Guide

Member Services

Classified Advertising
Event Calendar
Massage Locator

Reader Services

Receive The Print Publication
Update Your Mailing Address

Other Links

About Us
Contact Us
Meet The Staff

MT News Update

Subscribe
Unsubscribe
Update E-mail
Current Issue

Deals & Events

Subscribe
Unsubscribe
Current Issue

To Your Health

Subscribe
Unsubscribe
Update E-mail
Current Issue
Archives

Policies

Privacy Policy
User Agreement

Other MPA Media Sites

Toyourhealth.com
Chiroweb.com
Chirofind.com
Dynamicchiropractic.ca
Dynamicchiropractic.com
DCPracticeINSIGHTS.com
Acupuncturetoday.com
Nutritionalwellness.com
Naturopathydigest.com
Chiropracticresearchreview.com
Spathery.com