

# ***CODE OF ETHICS***



***CZECH-MORAVIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
(ČMPS)***

***1998***

# Code of Ethics of Czech-Moravian Psychological Society (ČMPS) 1998

## 1. Preamble

This Code is a set of rules that the ČMPS and all its members should observe since its coming to force, i.e. since 1999. The dating "1998" signalises first of all the historical circumstances under which this Code was created. It is not only the "end-of-2nd-millennium" era, or the era of transition into the third millennium after Christ, but also the era labelled as the end of Modern Age and as the First Global Revolution. It is defined mainly by plurality of judgements, attitudes and opinions. To reach consensus needed for democratic agreement and acceptance of this Code, it was necessary to outline and word it moderately, nevertheless to outline and word it in such a way that would enable the admission of ČMPS and all its members to the appropriate European structures.



## Code of Ethics of Psychological Activities

Psychologists pursue their profession for the benefit of individuals and society in the spirit of respect for the individual's personality, life and health. They consider their professional activities a service.

Psychologists shall be unbiased; they shall respect their clients and maintain high ethical standards in their activities. They are obliged to protect their professional independence and professional objectivity. In their activities, the highest value they shall bear in mind is the health and welfare of the clients.

### 1. Competence, responsibility

Psychologists must attempt to ensure, maintain and develop their professional competence including supervision and recognize and maintain the limits of their competence.

#### 1.1

Psychologists shall practice only within the area of their field for which they have got the appropriate preparation and achieved qualifications.

#### 1.2

Psychologists shall maintain only those procedures that are not liable to misleading interpretations of their qualifications and skills as well as their attitudes.

#### 1.3

If requested to provide psychological services not corresponding to their professional competence, psychologists shall refer the client to the services from other appropriately qualified specialists.

#### 1.4

Psychologists must ensure that those who work under their direct supervision maintain the same principles -- most of all, that they recognize the limits of their competence.

## **2.**

### 2.1

Psychologists uphold the principle of working with clients with their consent unless the law expressly states otherwise, or with the exception of pressing situations demanding action for the benefit of the client.

### 2.2

All professional activities, relations and consequences must be expressed in precise form (an agreement, a contract; including mutual agreement on eventual remuneration) from which it must be evident that the recipient of professional services has approved them.

### 2.3

While providing service (help, support) to those who are unable to give consent, psychologists seek consent from those who have legal authority to give it.

### 2.4

Psychologists shall refrain from making inappropriate, unrealistic, exaggerated claims for the effectiveness of their activity or its results toward the clients as well as in the field of advertising.

## **3.**

Psychologists must (in accordance with legal standards and regulations) ensure protection of all information acquired in course of their professional activities.

### 3.1

Psychologists maintain -- in compliance with the law -- the compulsory secrecy concerning facts they have obtained while following the professional practice.

### 3.2

Psychologists convey any information about the client to other specialists -- including psychologists -- only with the expressed permission of the client.

### 3.3

While using acquired information (e.g. for study, scientific, or other purposes), psychologists always guarantee anonymity of personal data.

### 3.4

Psychologists shall take care that those colleagues who they are in charge of, and who work under their supervision, respect the need for confidentiality in dealing with information obtained.

## **4.**

Psychologists shall behave and conduct themselves in a way that does not damage the interests of their clients and does not undermine public confidence in the profession of a psychologist.

### 4.1

Psychologists refrain from performing professional activities if their physical or psychological condition could have negative effects on their capability of professional approach.

4.2

Psychologists must not abuse the relationship of trust or dependence that may originate in their psychological professional work.

4.3

Psychologists must not use the professional relationship to gratify their further personal, religious, political or other ideological interests.

4.4

Psychologists are obliged to ensure that all psychological tests, psychodiagnostic aids and records of the examination are protected in such a way that no one lacking appropriate qualifications would have access to those and would be able to use them.

4.5

Psychologists must not allow their professional responsibilities or standards of practice to be influenced by race, age, sex, nationality, political affiliation, religion, social standing and other extraneous factors -- neither in their relationship toward themselves, nor toward the clients.

4.6

Psychologists approach other psychologists in the spirit of principles of professional cooperativeness, with trust and will to cooperate; they do not diminish each other's professional competence.

4.7

If psychologists reasonably suspect a colleague of unprofessional conduct, it is their duty to report the allegation in an appropriate way. If no rectification occurs, they shall pass the information on to the Council of ČMPS. There is a special ethics board there that deals with the breach of Code of Ethics.

**5.**

Obligatoriness of the Code of Ethics of psychological activities. As stated above, this Code of Ethics is binding for ČMPS and its members since it was agreed upon according to the Statutes of ČMPS; it is each members' duty to get immediately acquainted with the Code and to sign up to observe it.

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**Obligatoriness of the Code of Ethics of psychological activities.**

I got acquainted with the Code of Ethics of psychological activities; I sign up to mark my approval with its contents and I undertake to observe it.

Name..... Date..... Signature.....

(Send to the address of ČMPS, Kladenská 48, 160 00 Praha 6)

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