Professional Code of Conduct - Biography Work

Foreword

In accordance with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights the following principles are fundamental to the exercise of our professional activity:

Every human being is a unique and original personality, with a lifelong capability to learn, to change and thereby to develop.

All human beings deserve respect without prejudice to their origin, gender and culture. Paramount for us is the value and complete integrity of each human being.

All human beings have the right to the free expression of their thoughts, conscience, religion and opinion, as well as to the education and development of their personality.

Through our vision of the world and the human being, we are committed to solidarity with other human beings, and to establish our work as a service for our fellow human beings.

Rudolf Steiner's spiritual scientific insights concerning the human being are fundamental to our work.

We commit ourselves to the maintenance of the following ethical principles in our professional conduct:

The practitioner establishes transparency with regard to his or her professional and personal background, professional competence and methodology, as well as institutional and personal relationships, inasmuch as these are relevant to the persons and institutions concerned.

The practitioner is aware that the role of counsellor involves standing permanently in a field of psycho-spiritual tension which cannot be resolved, but which must rather be endured and creatively transformed. Fields of psychic tension come into being, for example, between the exercise of both critical reserve and solidarity, between attention to both institutional tasks and the needs of the people concerned, or between both the focus on limited resources and the problems being faced.

The practitioner respects the inviolable dignity of all of those with whom he or she becomes involved during the fulfilment of his or her tasks, exercising respect for the possibilities and boundaries of their existential situations, as well as in connection to obligations incident to any respective institutional relationships. The practitioner is aware of the dangers involved by establishing intimate relations with their clients; any form of sexual infridgement is to be assiduously avoided as well as any behaviours arising out of excessively narcissistic needs.

The practitioner respects the autonomy of clients, particularly when forming judgements, making decisions and acting. This does not absolve the practitioner from the requirement to take critical positions, introduce alternative perspectives, or draw attention where applicable to the possible consequences of decisions during the counselling process.

The practitioner is committed to preserving the fullest confidentiality; the transmission of information requires the permission of those involved.

The practitioner aspires to the greatest possible authenticity and congruence between the exercise of professional etiquette and the pursuit of his or own own lifestyle. A prerequisite is the willingness to undertake, in an appropriate way, a continual assessment of one's self, one's counselling activity, and its spiritual scientific basis through, for example, training, supervision and intervision.

The practitioner's priority, where it concerns his or her own financial requirements, is the client and the needs of the counselling process. This applies not only to determining the correct balance of intensity and duration in the counselling process, but also to the issue of recognising the need to promote professional referrals.

Literature referred to in the Foreword:

* Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN 1948
* Model for a Code of Ethics, based on Unger, Stephen: Ethics and the Responsible Engineer, New York 1982
* Professional Code of the Swiss Professional Association for Social Workers and Social Educational Workers 1990
* Professional Code for Journalists, 1994
* Documentation about a Study in Ethics AEB-Course 93B Luzern by Plasch Spescha, Biel 1995