



Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics for Therapeutic Recreation Ontario (TRO) represents the core values and beliefs of the profession, and is designed to promote the highest standards of ethical behaviour among therapeutic recreation practitioners. The Code of Ethics serves as a set of guidelines to promote accountability, integrity, and judgment in the best interest of the client, the profession, and society. Therapeutic recreation practitioners in Ontario are responsible for adhering to the following principles:

ADVOCACY

The therapeutic recreation practitioner has the responsibility to serve as an advocate for the profession and for the rights of others including clients, families, colleagues, organizations, and the larger community.

AUTONOMY

The therapeutic recreation practitioner has the responsibility to preserve and protect the right of each client to make his or her own choices without imposing values or beliefs upon the client. Decisions made by clients are valued and respected by the therapeutic recreation practitioner.

BENEFICENCE/NON-MALEFICENCE

The therapeutic recreation practitioner has the responsibility to protect clients from harm and to make every effort to secure the well-being of clients. This involves providing services which are of maximum benefit to the clients; minimizing risks associated with their services; and maintaining appropriate, professional relationships with clients. The therapeutic recreation practitioner recognizes and communicates the inherent benefits and risks of therapeutic recreation to clients, families, colleagues, organizations, and the community.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The therapeutic recreation practitioner has the responsibility to safeguard all information gained regarding the client. The therapeutic recreation practitioner follows agency policies regarding confidentiality, and has the obligation to inform the client of circumstances in which confidential information may be shared.

EQUALITY

The therapeutic recreation practitioner has the responsibility to treat all clients fairly and equally when providing services. The therapeutic recreation practitioner acknowledges and respects the diversity in backgrounds and beliefs of all clients and ensures equitable opportunities for service and care.

FIDELITY

The therapeutic recreation practitioner has the responsibility to maintain loyal and trusting relationships by being truthful and honouring commitments made to clients, colleagues, agencies, the community, and the profession.

INFORMED CONSENT

The therapeutic recreation practitioner has the responsibility to provide clients or surrogate decision makers with sufficient information to make informed decisions regarding services. This involves sharing information about the service; the benefits and risks involved; the expected outcomes of the service; and the therapeutic recreation practitioner's training and credentials. Each client or surrogate decision maker has the right to know all options and alternatives before making a decision and consenting to service.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

The therapeutic recreation practitioner has the responsibility to provide services of the highest quality, while recognizing one's own professional limitations. This results from ongoing expansion of his or her knowledge and skill base; adherence to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Therapeutic Recreation in Ontario; affiliation and active involvement in professional organizations; conduction, analysis and presentation of research; and support of the development of the profession.