



Grounds for Disciplinary Action

Section 1. Introduction

The International Association of Yoga Therapists (“IAYT”) grants membership to individuals and schools. IAYT also accredits yoga therapy training programs that meet IAYT’s educational standards and grants a certification credential (C-IAYT) to yoga therapists who meet IAYT’s certification qualifications. These services to the field, and all of IAYT’s other programs and activities, are intended to support its mission: to establish yoga as a recognized and respected therapy.

Ensuring responsible and ethical behavior on the part of yoga therapists and yoga therapy training programs—along with promoting high educational standards and effective and safe yoga therapy practice—is at the heart of establishing yoga as a recognized and respected therapy, one that is of service and benefit to the public. In order to support responsible and ethical behavior, IAYT has adopted a Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities. This policy, “Grounds for Disciplinary Action,” defines the ethical requirements that pertain to IAYT-certified yoga therapists. In addition, IAYT has adopted a companion document, “Procedures for Disciplinary Actions for IAYT-Certified Yoga Therapists,” which sets forth the specific steps that IAYT will take whenever a complaint is filed against a yoga therapist who falls under IAYT’s purview.

IAYT reserves the right to take disciplinary action against an IAYT-certified yoga therapist—or a yoga therapist seeking certification—whenever there is credible and compelling evidence, information, and/or documentation that a yoga therapist’s actions have violated one or more of the provisions in the Grounds for Disciplinary Action. IAYT understands the gravity of investigating a complaint and taking disciplinary action and is therefore committed to ensuring a fair and balanced process.

Section 2. Unethical Behavior

The following actions and circumstances may serve as a basis for IAYT disciplinary action:

1. Providing false, misleading, or deceptive information in connection with an application for IAYT membership, certification, or recertification.
2. Violating any IAYT policies or procedures pertaining to yoga therapist membership or certification.
3. Misrepresenting professional credentials (e.g., education, training, experience, level of competence, skills, and/or certification status).
4. Advertising false, misleading, or deceptive information.
5. Exceeding the scope of practice as defined by IAYT or applicable law, or employing practices not supported by the generally accepted experience of the profession.
6. Obtaining or attempting to obtain compensation or reimbursement by fraud or deceit.
7. Engaging in fraudulent or negligent billing or recordkeeping.
8. Performing services without obtaining informed consent.
9. Failing to maintain client-practitioner confidentiality.
10. Failing to maintain appropriate professional boundaries in relationships with clients or students or in any way exploiting client or student trust.

11. Engaging in sexual contact with a current client/student after the practitioner-client or teacher-student relationship is established.
12. Engaging in sexual contact with a former client/student where there is clear evidence of the possibility that egregious harm or exploitation of the trust established during the professional relationship will result. IAYT suggests extreme caution on the part of yoga therapists who choose to enter into a personal relationship with a former client/student.
13. Knowingly violating accepted standards of the yoga therapy profession relating to safe, ethical, and/or competent practice.
14. Conviction of a felony that brings into question the moral and/or psychological fitness to practice yoga therapy.

Section 3. Incompetence

The following actions and circumstances may serve as a basis for IAYT disciplinary action:

Engaging in conduct that evidences a lack of sufficient knowledge and ability to practice yoga therapy safely, effectively and competently. This may include failure to apply the principles, knowledge, and/or skills of the yoga therapy profession at the level required for certification.

Section 4. Impairment

The following actions and circumstances may serve as a basis for IAYT disciplinary action:

Not being able to safely and effectively engage in the yoga therapy practice due to substance abuse, and/or physical or psychological impairment.