



ASI Honor Code of Ethics and Good Practice

Preamble

In keeping with ASI's mission to encourage spiritual teachers, leaders, and guides to approach their work in the most competent and ethical manner, and to help safeguard the sacred teacher-student relationship, all members are asked to commit to the following principles.

ASI recognizes that the Honor Code is—and is likely to remain—a work in progress in need of continual reassessment and periodic revisions. We also acknowledge that many of the guidelines touch upon highly complex and nuanced issues. Therefore, we will formulate supplementary documents to expand upon these points and will provide a forum for honest feedback, open discussion, diverse perspectives, and discerning analysis.

In the points below, the word “teachers” represents all the professional capacities in which our members might serve, and the word “students” represents all whom they serve.

Honor Code

As spiritual teachers, we commit to:

1. Holding ourselves to the highest standards of ethics, right behavior, and professional competency, as commonly recognized by our peers.
2. Performing our roles as teachers in a kind, loving, compassionate manner, in both one-to-one interactions and group settings.
3. Respecting equally the rights, dignity, and safety of all students and fellow practitioners.
4. Fostering autonomy, empowerment, self-sufficiency, and emotional maturity in our students.
5. Treating students' questions, concerns, doubts, and experiences with respect, and never trivializing or dismissing their enquiries.
6. Being self-aware, open, and humble about the limitations of our knowledge and experience.
7. Making only honest, realistic statements regarding the benefits of our teachings, practices, courses, and other offerings.

8. Refraining from giving counsel in matters outside of our areas of training and expertise, and making appropriate referrals as needed.
9. Being honest and transparent regarding business and financial matters.
10. Honoring the sanctity of privacy and maintaining the confidentiality of everything conveyed to us in confidence, whether through direct communication or correspondence.
11. Abiding by local laws with respect to the disclosure of information in cases of sexual abuse, child endangerment, and the intention to harm oneself or others.
12. Using only with proper care and caution any techniques that can potentially cause harmful side effects.
13. Acknowledging that, regardless of our spiritual attainment, we are human beings with human personalities, limitations, drives, and needs.
14. Not seeking or presuming exalted privileges or glorified status because of our role as spiritual teachers.
15. Never attempting to satisfy our personal aspirations, needs, or desires by exploiting, abusing, or deceiving a student.
16. Establishing and maintaining clear, concrete, and appropriate professional boundaries with all students, employees, and associates.
17. Never abusing the trust of students to obtain sexual gratification, money, free labor, or other personal benefits.
18. Refraining from intimacy, touching, and suggestive remarks that are, or could be construed as, inappropriate in a student-teacher context.
19. Cultivating essential personal qualities such as honesty, integrity, compassion, humility, and empathy.
20. Engaging in continuous and unending self-reflection, learning, and holistic personal growth.
21. Regularly reviewing our motivations for serving as teachers and monitoring the integrity of our words and actions.
22. Encouraging feedback about our own methods and behavior—and taking that feedback seriously.

23. Addressing promptly any personal issues, concerns, or challenges that might affect our professional competency.
24. Offer support to our colleagues and fellow ASI members to the extent we are able and available.