

In effect September 21, 2026

Code of Ethics



Code of Ethics

Introduction: This Code of Ethics provides registrants with information about the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario's (the College's) expectations for ethical practice. It outlines a set of principles and core values and is intended for use in all contexts and domains of occupational therapy practice, and in all levels of decision making. It describes the core values occupational therapists embody as members of a self-regulating profession and it can be used to help clients, colleagues and members of the public understand our ethical commitments. As a critical component of the College's programs and a resource for committee decisions, the Code of Ethics provides information that is crucial to all registrants.

The Code of Ethics is not intended to tell registrants exactly how to act in every situation but rather to be used to guide registrants on how to conduct themselves and how to navigate the wide range of ethical scenarios and dilemmas that can arise in practice.

CODE OF ETHICS

The College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario is dedicated to upholding the highest ethical standards in service to the public. This Code of Ethics guides registrants to ensure their actions foster public trust, maintain the profession's integrity, and serve the best interests of clients while reflecting societal values.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

Learning, Knowing and Doing Better

Commit to continuous learning and improvement to ensure that our work is informed by the latest knowledge and practices, striving for excellence and competence.

Minimizing Harm

Act thoughtfully to minimize harm, considering the impact of our decisions on individuals, communities, and society at large.

Respecting Autonomy

Honor the right of individuals to make informed decisions by providing them with the information, support, and resources needed to act in line with their values.

CORE VALUES

Accountability

Accept full responsibility for our actions and decisions, ensuring they align with professional standards and ethical conduct.

Collaboration



College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario

Regulator of occupational therapists in Ontario

Work cooperatively with colleagues, clients, and interested parties, recognizing that diverse perspectives lead to better outcomes.

Humility

Approach our work with humility, being open to learning, feedback, and acknowledging the value of others' perspectives.

Integrity

Uphold honesty, fairness, and consistency in all professional actions, adhering to both the spirit and letter of the law.

Respect

Treat everyone with dignity, fairness, and respect, recognizing and honoring cultural differences and individual experiences.

Transparency

Foster trust by communicating openly and honestly, ensuring clarity in all professional interactions.

COMMITMENT TO ETHICAL PRACTICE

By following these principles and core values, registrants of College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario ensure their conduct serves the public good, fosters trust, and maintains the profession's integrity. Ethical practice requires ongoing reflection and a commitment to growth, ensuring we act in the best interests of those we serve.