



THE HEALING TRUST

Code of Conduct

**Professional standards of practice and behaviour
for members of The Healing Trust**

The Healing Trust is the working name of The NFSH Charitable Trust Limited company formed in England and Wales.

Charity No. 1094702

Company No. 3752333

www.thehealingtrust.org.uk

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The Healing Trust is the working name of The NFSH Charitable Trust Limited Charity No 1094702 and is referred to below as either “The Healing Trust” or “the Charity”.

The Charity promotes spiritual healing for the benefit of public health and wellbeing, through the provision of healing treatments within its Centres and elsewhere, and by educating and training healers to the highest professional standards of practice.

In this updated edition, supplementary information has been included to provide additional points of reference for the development and maintenance of good practice when working with members of the public. This information is particularly relevant to healers working professionally (paid or unpaid) and/or within the health and social care sectors.

It is a requirement for all students that they study the Code of Conduct from the beginning of their training, and they will be expected to demonstrate a good working knowledge of the Code when attending their Healer Membership Assessment Panel.

Members in all healing categories should be fully conversant with this document. All members must give healing in accordance with the general principles of their training with The Healing Trust and this Code of Conduct. Use of the term “healer” throughout applies equally to students and community members, (the latter from 2026) except where they are expressly mentioned.

Legal information contained within this Code of Conduct is correct at the time of publication. As legislation varies in different countries (including in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) all members are advised to check legal requirements locally, as needed.

In the event of issues or questions arising from this Code, members are advised to contact the Office at office@thehealingtrust.org.uk

This version was approved by The Board of Trustees on 19th March 2026.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct sets out the standards both personal and professional expected of all members (hereinafter referred to as 'members') and non-members* of The Healing Trust. They should follow the guidance in this standards document, be aware of their professional and personal conduct at all times and must not bring the Charity or the profession into disrepute.

The Code of Conduct is a source of reference for members, non-members and members of the public.

* Non-members may operate administratively in our healing centres, or as healers in our associated healing centres. Non-members may also be trustees or advisors on the Board.

DUTY OF CONFIDENTIALITY

The duty of confidentiality applies to all trustees, advisors to the Board, members and non-members, all of whom, by the nature of their role, will have access to confidential information, which can come in oral, written or electronic form.

Confidential information includes all matters relating to clients of members (which is expanded upon in 54), clients of healing centres (including associated) and all non-public, proprietary or sensitive information, including but not limited to business, strategic and financial data, personnel and operational matters and Board discussions, including all papers put before trustees to inform their discussions.

THE HEALER'S PROMISE

The Healer's Promise provides the foundation of the values to which healers aspire to live and work.

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I shall attune with the source of peace, love and wisdom

All who come to me for healing I shall treat with compassion  
and all that is said to me shall be treated with respect

In life my attitude shall be non-judgemental and caring  
I shall be honest and polite in all my dealings

I shall act and speak with integrity and kindness to all

I shall consider my own wellbeing to be important, and my endeavour shall be to become  
whole, and to be my true self

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Section 1 - INTRODUCTION

Healing Definition

1. Spiritual healing is a holistic complementary therapy designed to restore the energetic balance of the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual aspects of the client. “Natural healing,” “energy healing,” “healing touch” and “contact healing,” are other terms often used to describe spiritual healing. Its approach is natural and non-invasive and has the intention of promoting self-healing, which can bring a sense of wellbeing and peace to the client.
2. The healer is a conduit for the flow of life-force energy, becoming one with the universal source of peace, love, and wisdom; thus, allowing this energy to benefit a person, animal or situation.
3. For in-person sessions, clients may receive treatment in a sitting, lying, or standing position, according to their comfort. The healer has the option to place their hands lightly on the client (see 4 below) or keep their hands within the client’s energy field without direct contact (see 5 below). Crucially, informed written consent for any physical touch must be obtained from the client before the start of each healing session. This consent, along with the specific areas where touch is permitted, must be clearly documented on the client’s records. Agreement on the areas of touch should be established in advance of the session.
4. **Contact healing** is spiritual healing carried out in the immediate presence of the client. The direct contact between healer and client is usually, but not exclusively, a light touch on the shoulders at the beginning and end of the healing session, and a gentle settling of the hands on or over the feet towards the end.
5. **Non-contact healing** is a form of spiritual healing that, while still conducted in the client’s presence, does not involve physical touch and can vary in proximity. This method can be practised close to the client, such as beside a hospital bed, or from a greater distance within the same vicinity.
6. **Distant healing** is spiritual healing without the client being physically present. It is usually at the request of the client, but may also be requested by their family, or friends, and often with the knowledge and consent of the client. Distant healing can also be carried out in the virtual presence of the client, for example over the phone or via a video link.

The Charity

7. The Charity offers a service that is complementary to other healthcare services within the community.
8. This Code of Conduct is established on the foundation of The Healing Trust’s Memorandum and Articles of Association and Standing Orders. Acceptance of these is a prerequisite for membership of The Healing Trust. Members can access these governing documents in the members’ area of the website. It is crucial for members to stay informed of any changes to these governing documents to ensure compliance.

The Code of Conduct serves as a binding agreement for all members, underscoring its significance in maintaining the integrity and standards of the organisation.

9. All members and staff will receive fair treatment in their dealings with the Charity regardless of gender, race, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, age or disability. See The Healing Trust's Health and Wellbeing Policy.
10. As a Registered Charity, all members must observe the relevant requirements of Charity law and The Charity Commission's guidance.

Membership

11. When healers become members, they are joining a charity dedicated to bringing the benefits of spiritual healing to as many people as possible.
12. For healers, there are two primary categories of membership:
 - a Student member (including Community members, see number 16 and Associate members see number 17):
 - b Healer member (including tutors, see number 15, associate members, see number 17, and fellows, see number 19).
13. **Student members** are enrolled on the training programme and actively working towards becoming healer members.
14. **Healer members** are those who have passed their healer assessment panel and met all the criteria for becoming a healer member.
15. **Tutors** are healer members, licensed by The Healing Trust following completion of appropriate training and the fulfilling of certain criteria to act in this position. Tutors must apply to renew their licences annually.
16. The **Community member** category (from 2026) refers to students who opt not to become healer members but wish to continue offering healing under supervision at healing centres and exhibitions (see number 90).
17. **Associate member** is a temporary category assigned to either student or healer members whose membership has (usually) lapsed for at least three years. They will resume their previous category of healer or student member once all the appropriate criteria have been met. The criteria, to be decided on a case-by-case basis, must be fulfilled within 6 months for students and 12 months for healers.
18. **Honorary members** are trustees and others who are not necessarily healers, but who have expertise needed by the Board, and who volunteer that expertise on a pro bono basis.
19. **Fellows** are healer members who have been honoured with fellowship in recognition of their exceptional service to the Charity.

20. **Friends** are individuals who, though not members, support the Charity's work through an annual subscription and who receive regular updates.
21. UK Healers is a standards-setting and accreditation body. The Healing Trust is an organisational member of UK Healers, which accredits all its training. Healer members residing in the UK are registered with UK Healers. This registration allows healthcare professionals and the public to verify that a healer is fully trained and affiliated with a recognised accreditation body.
22. All healer, student and community members are subject to all legislation which refers directly to healing; the main areas of which are listed in Reference Section VII.
23. **International members** - As The Healing Trust is based in the UK, the legal references are to UK law and its statutory agencies. The Healing Trust has members in many countries, and to include the legislation for each country, would be too onerous an undertaking for this document. Therefore, it has been noted in each section where members must check how that situation is handled in their own country/state. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure they are compliant with the laws of the country in which they work, and to apply this Code of Conduct according to those laws.

Section 2 - PROFESSIONALISM

Personal Conduct

24. Healers should always strive to embody the values set out in The Healer's Promise, which include being polite, compassionate, non-judgemental, caring, honest, respectful, having integrity, and being kind and truthful. These principles must guide all interactions with clients, fellow members, and the office staff of The Healing Trust.
25. Healers should never be intrusive and should always be sensitive to the needs of others. Healers should restrict conversation to the needs/wishes of the client.
26. Healers should not discriminate and should respect and support those with disabilities.
27. When providing healing, healers should dress in appropriate clothing.
28. Maintaining high standards of personal cleanliness and hygiene is of utmost importance. Healers should ensure their breath is clean, and that they have washed their hands. Strong perfumes, deodorants and aftershave should not be worn during healing sessions. Healers are expected to aspire to good health and make every effort to ensure that they are physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually fit to practise. If healers feel they are not in an appropriate state to provide healing, e.g. after experiencing a bereavement, it is strongly advised that they refrain from practising.

Scope of Practice and Competence

29. Healers must practise within the scope of their training and qualifications. They should be aware of, and recognise, the limits of their role, knowledge and competence on all levels.
30. Any clients who have conditions which exceed the healer's capability, training and competence should always be referred to a more experienced healer or suitably qualified practitioner.

Other Therapies

31. Where a healer is qualified and insured in other therapies or treatments, these may be offered privately if the client makes a request and gives their permission. The client should be made aware of the commencement and conclusion of the spiritual healing session before another modality is undertaken.
32. Healers may only prescribe or sell remedies, herbs, supplements, oils, etc, within their practice if they have a separate training and qualification that legally permits them to do so. This is not permitted at centres of The Healing Trust.
33. Healer members should always be mindful that individuals referred through the healer service, the find a healer feature on the website or via UK Healers, have explicitly requested spiritual healing only.

Continuing Professional Development

34. All members are expected to continually improve their self-awareness, knowledge, and abilities as this is essential for all healers, irrespective of the context in which they work. Healers are also encouraged to keep abreast of current research and developments in the fields of spiritual and energy healing and related areas pertaining to the understanding of healing. Examples of CPD and ongoing training may include:
- a attending courses, training, and workshops related to healing and allied fields;
 - b engaging in personal study and reading to expand one's knowledge and skills;
 - c maintaining contact with other members through online or in- person meetings, attending healing centres, and utilising the resources on The Healing Trust's website and social media platforms;
 - d participating in mentoring and support groups to enhance professional development;
 - e holding a current first aid certificate;
 - f keeping a record of development and training undertaken;
 - g remaining in balance and being in the most optimum state of health for being a channel for healing. Members should be aware that working with subtle energies and in alignment with the divine source can bring their own unresolved issues to the surface to be healed. Self-care could be maintained by:
 - I. engaging in a daily spiritual practice, such as meditation or attunement;
 - II. receiving healing and other therapies as needed for personal and spiritual growth and wellbeing.
35. Whilst continuing professional development (CPD) is currently expected for all healers, it is not compulsory. However, it is a requirement for those working professionally and/or within the healthcare sector, whether on a paid or voluntary basis.

Professional Relationship

36. Healers:

- a have a duty of professional responsibility toward clients and should always act in their best interests and in accordance with The Healer's Promise;
- b should always act lawfully, with integrity, courtesy, discretion and tact towards their clients and should uphold the trust placed in them;
- c should communicate clearly and effectively with clients enabling them to make their own decisions about their health and wellbeing;
- d should always respect the religious, spiritual and personal views of others;
- e should not express or discuss their personal beliefs and views with a client unless invited to do so. This should always be handled with discretion, and should not interfere with the purpose and conduct of the healing session;
- f should not discriminate on grounds of gender, race, religion, political persuasion, sexual orientation, age or disability;
- g may choose not to give healing to anyone that they are uncomfortable with - clients also have the same right;
- h must maintain clear and appropriate professional boundaries at all times and never exploit their position of trust in any way that takes advantage of a client either emotionally, financially, sexually or energetically;
- i must take responsibility for all their actions and be able to justify their decisions;
- j must act with respect and consideration towards fellow members and the office staff at all times.

Section 3 - SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Procedures

37. Healers have a legal duty of care to report any serious concerns regarding the welfare of a vulnerable person of any age. If healers have any concerns about a client, they are recommended to:
 - a contact their local authority's designated officer (LADO) (terms may vary depending on country) who has a legal duty to investigate any concern
 - b contact the police in an emergency
38. Many local authorities and voluntary organisations have a policy for the protection of vulnerable adults or children in their care which will be relevant, for example, when visiting children and some adults in hospital or care/residential homes.
39. International members must identify the equivalent bodies or authorities in their country or countries of work.
40. Training on safeguarding is recommended for members of The Healing Trust, and obligatory for tutors, trainee tutors and members within healing centres.

(See Reference Section IV)

Criminal Record Check

41. Healers may be required to undergo a criminal record check if they are working with children or vulnerable adults. These checks are conducted by the relevant government agency at the request of an employer for either an employee or an eligible volunteer. All members must identify the relevant authority in their country or countries of work (UK members refer to the Section II – Reference).
42. In joining or renewing as a member, every member confirms they have no unspent convictions or pending prosecutions that The Healing Trust is not already aware of. Anyone who has been barred from working in any capacity with children or vulnerable adults and continues to do so will be committing an offence.

Children at Risk

43. In the UK, a child is defined as someone who is under the age of 18. Members should check the age of adulthood in their country of work if unsure.
44. If a child comes for healing, the following should be considered:
 - a Consent: It is considered best practice to obtain consent from the parent or guardian of the child, as well as the consent of the child. However, although the age of adulthood is also 18 in Scotland, the Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991 means that those in Scotland over the age of 16 do not require parental consent for healing.

- b Parental Responsibility: This is a legal concept that lasts until a child reaches the age of adulthood. Care must be exercised if the parent is under the age of adulthood. If in doubt, the healer should not provide healing. If providing healing, it may be helpful for the healer to have a third-party present, e.g. a healer colleague.
- c Confidentiality: In UK law children under 18 may also be able to request confidentiality in the same way as adults, depending on their age, maturity and understanding. This is known as known as The Gillick Competence.
- d Confidentiality regarding younger children is always subject to the consent of those with parental responsibility for them, and to the law and the guidance in force for professionals relating to child protection.
- e Third-party: It is a requirement to have a third-party person present, either a parent, carer or another healer, when giving healing to a consenting child under 16 years of age (in the UK).

Child Illness

- 45. Those with parental responsibility for a child should always be asked whether the child is being treated by a doctor for any presenting condition before giving healing. If it transpires that s/he is not, the healer must advise that, in law, the child should be seen by a doctor, and secure the signature of the parent or guardian using a consent form available from the Office which incorporates the following statement:

I have been advised by (name of healer) that according to UK Law I must consult a doctor at the earliest opportunity concerning the health of my child (name of child).

Signed (Parent or Guardian)Date

Print Name

Signature of HealerDate

Print Name.....

- 46. Consent forms used in healing centres should be signed and returned with all other usual documentation to the Office. Signed consent forms must be kept with the child's healing records if working in private practice.
- 47. A healer who gives healing to a sick child in the knowledge that no doctor has been consulted may run the risk of being accused of complicity in a criminal offence, as well as liability in civil law if a serious illness is undiagnosed, and the child suffers harm as a result.
- 48. It should be noted however, that many children who are brought by their parents/guardian for healing may already be receiving medical treatment.

49. Cases requiring careful consideration would include, for example, a request from a parent who might not approve of medical intervention for reasons of culture or personal belief. In such cases, the healer is strongly advised to suggest distant healing rather than contact healing.

Adults at Risk

50. Consent: Clinicians and healers alike have a legal responsibility to determine whether a client has the capacity to consent or not. Although a healer is not clinically trained, they would be expected to show common sense in this regard. It is always to be assumed that an adult has the capacity to decide/consent unless otherwise apparent. The adult must be able to understand and evaluate information given to them and communicate their own wishes.
51. Safety: Healers should be mindful of their own personal safety at all times. Discernment should always be exercised for the protection of both the healer and the client.
52. Third party: Only highly experienced healers, accompanied by a qualified specialist, should offer healing to clients with severe mental health problems. Examples of these are drug or substance abuse, or severe depression. Alternatively, distant healing should be provided.
53. Self-harm: If the healer is informed by an individual that they intend to self-harm, the healer has a duty of care and must urge them to visit their doctor and note this on their records.
54. Emergency: the healer should bear in mind their duty is always to act in the client's best interest, especially if they are concerned about the risk of harm to either the client or others. If it becomes evident to the healer that the client needs urgent medical or psychiatric help, the healer should try to obtain the client's consent to refer them to a doctor or other agency, which should be noted on their record. However, consent need not be sought if the situation is deemed to be an emergency, or threat to life.

Section 4 - RECORD KEEPING

Confidentiality: Records, Data Protection and Disclosure

55. All information regarding the client is strictly confidential. Personal data must be processed in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It is essential for members to understand and adhere to these guidelines in their practice. Members must not discuss or share any client personal data with any third party, except where:
- a there is a legal obligation to disclose information;
 - b the client has provided explicit consent to share;
 - c there is a risk of serious harm to the client or others;
 - d emergency situations arise;
 - e anonymised data is shared for research or statistical purposes while protecting client identities.

Records

56. Healers in private practice should keep concise records of all healing sessions. These must be accurate, factual and avoid opinion.
57. Written records (brief, concise) need to be made for sessions at healing centres. Clients must be informed that data will be collected and retained only for as long as is necessary to satisfy the purpose for which it has been collected.
58. The contents of any record must not be disclosed to anyone other than the individual concerned, subject to certain limitations (see number 63), and records must remain confidential (even after a client's death).

Data Protection

59. When processing personal data of clients, healers must comply with the requirements set out in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation. Personal data is any information that can be used to identify an individual. Special Category Data refers to information that, if disclosed or compromised, could result in harm, embarrassment, or discrimination to the individual concerned. This type of data often includes highly personal or confidential details such as racial or ethnic origin, religious beliefs, political opinions, physical or mental health conditions, sexual orientation, criminal records, financial information, or trade union membership. It requires special protection due to its potential impact on an individual's privacy, dignity, and fundamental rights.

Requirements cover:

- a Storage: Records must be kept in good condition. Healing centres must return their data to the Office at the end of each session;
 - b Protection: Computer records must be password protected and/or encrypted and regularly backed up. Data protection includes the use of tablets, laptops, PCs, smartphones and other electronic devices;
 - c Privacy: Records should only be accessed by authorised healers, i.e. in a healing centre of The Healing Trust. Healers need to follow the guidelines governing other settings;
 - d Length of time: Records should be kept for a minimum of 7 years after the last healing session and then securely destroyed. Records of deceased clients should be kept for 10 years following death (if known);
 - e Children: Records relating to a child must be kept for a period of 10 years or for 7 years after they reach adulthood (whichever is longer);
 - f Consent: The client should be informed as to why their personal data is required, how it will be used, that it will be kept secure and that it will not be passed on to any other organisation. The client should be asked for consent to their data being held for these purposes.
 - g UK Healing Centres: The centre chair or designated team leader will be responsible for complying with the Charity's data protection procedures. The data collected is held electronically by the Office.
 - h Personal and Special Category Data: Different levels of security apply depending on whether the data collected is 'personal' or 'sensitive.' The rule of thumb when collecting data is 'as much as you need, but no more than you need.' The healer must be able to identify the reason for collecting each piece of data.
 - i Data Privacy Notice: Healers are required to provide privacy policies for clients howsoever and wherever they work and on any personal websites. A privacy policy should identify what kind of data is collected, why it is collected and how it will be stored.
60. Contact the relevant authority in your own country for all matters regarding data protection for those outside the UK. A simple checklist for quick guidance is available on the UK's ICO website <http://www.ico.gov.uk>. Please pay particular attention to the GDPR rules introduced in 2018.

Disclosure

61. Healers cannot offer absolute confidentiality to clients but need to explain that this is subject to certain limitations (see number 63).
62. Disclosure of identifying information will usually require the client's written permission, signed, and clearly dated. In some instances, written permission will be from the parent/guardian responsible for the child, or the legal guardian of a vulnerable adult.
63. A student healer may need to discuss a client's needs with their mentor/supervisor. In these circumstances the client would not be identified.
64. Healers should keep in mind that clients have the right to see their written records and may request to do so. The healer may be advised by a medical practitioner that there may be medical reasons why a client would suffer from knowing the content of these records. For this reason, all records should be factual, contain no opinions, and be kept brief.

Mandatory Disclosure

65. Healers have a legal obligation to disclose information in the following circumstances:
 - a When acting as a witness in a court of law and required to provide evidence;
 - b When a child or vulnerable adult is believed to be at risk, the healer would need to report this to the local authority's designated officer (LADO) or relevant authority outside the UK;
 - c Should the healer become aware a client is at serious risk of suicide, their doctor should be informed immediately with or without consent of the client (Suicide Act 1961{UK});
 - d Should the healer suspect the client has a notifiable disease, they should immediately refer the client to their doctor. For a list of notifiable diseases and how to report (in the UK), please check: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/notifiable-diseases-and-causative-organisms-how-to-report>. The list and reporting process will differ from country to country and healers will need to check in the country in which they work;
 - e If a client discloses that they are considering, planning, or have committed an act of terrorism or committed a crime, the healer must inform the police without informing the client they intend to do so.
66. A healer failing to take legally required action may be liable for prosecution.

Section 5 - THE HEALING ENVIRONMENT

Safe Practice and the Working Environment

67. As healing can take place anywhere, healers should always do their best to ensure that the working conditions are suitable and conducive to a calming atmosphere. Prior to giving healing, consideration should be given to the possible intrusions of sound, including from waiting areas, smells, and the appropriate presence of animals/pets. Suitable disabled access should be available where possible.

Health and Safety

68. Healers have a duty of care to ensure the health and safety for themselves and their client at all times.
69. Healers should understand the importance of making a risk assessment in any environment where they will give healing, on each occasion that healing is given.
70. The assessment should look at all aspects of risk from the outer access of the property to the room where healing is given.
71. Healers must ensure as far as reasonably possible that anyone attending for healing does not encounter anything hazardous. Areas to consider may be:
- a Trip hazards e.g. uneven floors, loose rugs, trailing wiring and the presence of pets;
 - b Slip hazards e.g. liquid spillages;
 - c Faulty electrical appliances;
 - d Safe access on and off a treatment couch (if used);
 - e Possible risk of infection;
 - f Ice, snow or slippery paths and steps;
 - g Poorly lit areas or entrances/exits.
72. Healers should check that the room ventilation/temperature is comfortable for the client.
73. Any client who incurs an injury or shock whilst in the healer's care, must be given appropriate recovery time and attention. The healer should seek medical assistance or provide first aid if a minor injury is apparent. For a more serious incident, or emergency, call an ambulance immediately and notify the Health and Safety Executive if necessary.

74. Any accident or injury to a client attending for healing should be recorded on the client accident/incident form. Should this take place in a healing centre, the chairperson/manager must be notified, and the insurers should be contacted for advice.

Music

75. A music licence is required if playing commercial music in a therapy room unless royalty-free music is used.

Section 6 - ADMINISTRATION

Insurance

76. In the UK, the insurance policy is provided for members by the Charity's insurers and members are expected to check it annually to ensure it continues to meet their individual needs. International members will need to make their own arrangements regarding adequate insurance cover in the country in which they work.
77. Professional indemnity and malpractice insurance: UK members are covered by the Charity's insurance for the act of spiritual healing carried out ONLY in accordance with this Code of Conduct. Healers are also recommended to check their professional indemnity cover to ensure that the amounts are appropriate and adequate for purpose.
78. Public liability insurance: Whether healing takes place in a public or private building, healers should ensure that the owner/leaseholder of the building holds current public liability insurance cover. An Employers' Liability Insurance Certificate is NOT the same as proof of public liability insurance and is often displayed in error.
79. Household insurance: When healing at home, the house and contents may not be covered by a healer's household insurance unless they have made suitable provision. At a minimum, healers are advised to inform their household insurance company of their healing activities. This may not incur an increased premium. Neglecting to do so may result in any (even unrelated) claim being rejected by the insurer on the grounds of "failure to disclose a material fact."
80. Equipment insurance: Healers are responsible for insuring their own equipment. They should check that their household insurance covers the use of a couch in all situations (including portable). A separate policy may be required. When healing on a couch provided by a centre of The Healing Trust, the couch is covered by the public liability section of the policy held by The Healing Trust (or with an associated centre).
81. Multi-therapy insurance: Members should ensure they have sufficient and appropriate insurance cover if they are practising any therapies in addition to spiritual healing. They should refer to the Charity's annual insurance policy and contact the insurers direct to add additional therapies.

Local Authority Regulations

82. Healers who are using their home as a place to give healing as a full or part-time occupation or business are advised to ensure that they are complying with local government bylaws and regulations. Local councils will advise on this. Business rates may be applicable.

Donations

83. Healers in private practice have the choice to waive the fee for their services and instead invite a donation, whereas students and community members may only invite donations (the amount of which should not be suggested) towards expenses, cost of their training with The Healing Trust, or on behalf of the Charity. When working at a centre of The Healing Trust, or anywhere on behalf of the Charity e.g. at an exhibition, all monies received (after payment of reasonable and receipted allowable expenses) must go to the Charity. It should be made clear that donations are to offset costs and not for the act of healing itself, which in such settings is freely given.
84. Healers are reminded that completion of UK Gift Aid forms by the client for donations of more than £30 provides an additional, and valuable, contribution to the work of the Charity.
85. Money donated specifically to the Charity cannot be further donated to another charity (e.g. if another charity was hosting the event) without the consent of the donor.

Conduct and Complaints

86. Members and non-members should be aware of their professional and personal conduct at all times. They should follow the guidance in this Code of Conduct and must not bring the Charity or the profession into disrepute.
87. Healers are advised to respond to criticism and complaints promptly and constructively. Sometimes an apology is all that is required to satisfy a complainant.
88. Healers must notify their centre chairperson, designated team leader or the Office as soon as they are given notice of a complaint. A Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure which covers healers and members of the public is in place. This is available on request from the Office. (For disputes between members see the Grievance Procedure in the Members Section of the website.)
89. Healers must immediately notify their insurers and the Office to receive advice and guidance over any potential claim made against them. Insurance companies should be notified quickly of any actions pending otherwise an insurance policy could be invalidated.
90. The Healing Trust office will inform UK Healers of any potential claim against a healer member, including those volunteering within a healing centre.
91. A member required to attend court on a healing-related matter must inform the Office as soon as possible.

Section 7 - THE HEALING SESSION

Before Healing

92. Healing sessions should, unless in exceptional circumstances (see number 6), be conducted in response to a request. When carrying out a healing session, healers should always have evidence available of their current membership of The Healing Trust. Please note that enamel badges, if provided by The Healing Trust, are not considered valid proof of membership.
93. Healers are prohibited from implying that they can diagnose, treat, or cure any medical conditions.
94. Healers must be able to provide a simple and comprehensible description of the healing act and be prepared to answer any client questions.
95. The client must be informed that they can interrupt or stop a healing session at any time.
96. Healers may suggest the removal of outdoor clothing, shoes, and, if necessary, glasses to make the client more comfortable during the session.
97. Healers may charge for their services. Students and community members may only ask for donations either to The Healing Trust or towards their training expenses with The Healing Trust. This needs to be clearly communicated at the time of enquiry, and the amount of the donation should be entirely at the discretion of the client.

Consent for Healing

98. Client consent must always be obtained, and healers must provide the client with sufficient information to make an informed decision. Clients should never feel pressured or coerced. For additional guidance on this matter, please refer to Section 3 Safeguarding Procedures.
99. Healers must always seek written permission from the client to administer healing. Providing treatment without appropriate consent may constitute harassment or assault.
100. Before commencing a healing session, if using contact healing, healers must obtain the client's written consent to gently place their hands on specific areas of their body.
101. Healers must ensure that any physical contact is appropriate and in accordance with the client's wishes. Inappropriate touching is prohibited, and client boundaries must be respected at all times.
102. Healers should be mindful that norms regarding appropriate touch may vary across diverse cultures. When in doubt, it is advisable to conduct healing without physical contact and instead work within the client's energy field.

Third Party/Chaperones

103. A healer may decide that it is appropriate to have a third-party present during a healing session. When making this decision, it is essential to consider both child and adult safeguarding concerns. Additionally, any client's disabilities should be taken into account, particularly with regard to access and communication. This may involve the presence of a carer, signer, or interpreter, as necessary. Furthermore, a healer may also feel the need for a third party to ensure their own safety. For more detailed guidance on these matters, please refer to Section 3 Safeguarding.

Consideration of the Client's Health

104. The healer must never countermand instructions, or seek to influence any treatments, prescribed by a doctor or other healthcare professional.

105. The healer must not give any advice to a client regarding medical treatment, a surgical operation, or prescribed medication. It must be left to the client to make their own decisions in the light of medical advice. If a client has any doubts or concerns regarding their medical treatment, they should consult with their healthcare professional.

106. Healers should never provide a diagnosis to a client in any circumstances. This responsibility lies with the client's doctor or other healthcare professional. If, however, a healer is made aware of a condition that would benefit from further medical treatment, they should encourage the client to seek further advice from their doctor or other healthcare professional.

107. If a client volunteers that they are ill or a healer suspects they are unwell, they should be advised to see a doctor. This advice and at 104 above, should be noted in the client's records.

During Healing

108. The act of healing must always be given in accordance with The Healing Trust's current training.

109. Whenever student and community members are conducting healing sessions in public, whether at The Healing Trust centres, associated centres, exhibitions, during demonstrations, or in organised practice groups, a healer member, trained in the current healing act, must always be present to provide supervision and guidance.

110. Healers should refrain from using any physical techniques during spiritual healing. However, it is acceptable, with the client's explicit permission, to gently rest hands on the client's shoulders and feet to assist with relaxation and grounding.

111. Healers should only heal in a conscious state of attunement, as taught by The Healing Trust.

112. Whilst some healers may be sensitive to spirit messages, spirit guides, or angelic forms, these should not be referred to (neither should a clairvoyant reading be offered) during, or following, a healing session. Conversation should be kept to a minimum and limited to the concerns brought by the client.

After Healing

113. It is important that healers establish, as far as is possible, that those who have received healing are well-grounded and in a state of full consciousness before leaving the session. If using a couch, the client may need assistance to achieve a standing position. Vigilance is recommended.

Distant Healing

114. A healer may consider it more appropriate to offer distant healing in circumstances where they or the client could be at risk, or if the client cannot attend in person. Examples may include:

- a A client needs urgent medical attention;
- b A client is under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- c A client is being physically threatening or verbally abusive;
- d A client appears to be in need of psychiatric help;
- e A client is unable to travel;
- f Where there is a risk of infection or contagion

Section 8 - WORKING WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS

Healthcare or Social Care (This section covers doctors' surgeries, hospitals, hospices and residential care or nursing homes.)

115. A patient in a hospital or a hospice can freely request a visit from a spiritual healer. In some circumstances distant healing may be more appropriate.
116. When a medical doctor refers a patient to a healer, the doctor remains clinically responsible for the patient. In this instance it is good practice for the healer to send a progress report, particularly if requested to do so by the doctor. However, the consent of the client should be obtained.
117. Healers should be respectful and co-operate with the medical profession along with orthodox and complementary healthcare practitioners.
118. When a healer visits a hospital or hospice to treat a patient, the following procedures should be followed:
 - a Always obtain permission from the ward manager or deputy before seeing a patient.
 - b Further permission of the ward manager must be obtained and recorded if other patients request healing during the visit.
 - c The healer should dress appropriately.
 - d A current membership card of The Healing Trust should be carried to provide credentials if requested. It is important that healers demonstrate their competence and confidence whilst in the public domain.
 - e If no screens are provided, the healer should offer healing through the patient's hands or by quiet healing thoughts. Healing should be given discreetly and without fuss.
 - f It is important to support and encourage the patient's trust in their hospital treatment and their care regime.
 - g Endeavour to be friendly and courteous to staff, remembering that the hospital or hospice must carry out all of the necessary steps in a patient's care and treatment.
 - h Patients in hospitals or hospices are very vulnerable to infection. A healer should not attend if they know or suspect that they, or the patient, has any infection. (See Reference Section V).
 - i Follow all hygiene precautions suggested and/or provided by the hospital to prevent the spread of disease and infection.

Midwifery

119. The Human Rights Act 1998 (UK): The courts have affirmed a woman's right to choose her baby's place of birth and birth companion (someone she selects to accompany her in addition to the registered health professionals caring for her). However, the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1997 stipulates that only a registered midwife or a registered medical practitioner may attend to a woman in childbirth in an official capacity. (This exception does not apply in cases of sudden or urgent necessity.) The penalty for impersonation is a fine of up to £2,500.
120. The Nursing and Midwifery Council Code 2015 instructs its members to acknowledge and honour the role that individuals can play in managing their own health and wellbeing.
121. It is recommended that a client be asked to sign a consent stating that they are aware of the law, wish to have healing, and that they have been advised to contact their midwife to let them know (see example below). International members should check legal regulations in their country of work.
122. Distant healing is recommended at the time of delivery unless the healer holds a midwifery qualification or has written consent from the client and the client's midwife.

Example of a consent form:

I (client's name) have been advised by (healer's name) that I should inform my midwife of my decision to receive healing.

I acknowledge and accept that healing is a complementary therapy and does not replace medical diagnosis, prognosis or treatment. I would like to confirm that I would like to receive healing in full acceptance of the responsibility of the above.

I exercise my right to request and receive healing.

Client's signature Date

Print name.....

Healer's signature Date

Print name.....

Working with Animals

123. Whilst it is understood that an animal does not necessarily need to be examined by a veterinarian before receiving healing, this is not a substitute for veterinary care and attention. Therefore, the healer should ensure that the animal has been, or will be, seen by a veterinary surgeon. If an owner presents an animal for healing and mentions conditions that are not being treated by a veterinary surgeon, they should be advised to consult one. Likewise, if any animal presented for healing appears to be in distress, the healer should advise the owner that the animal must be assessed by a veterinary surgeon. The healer should refrain from offering any diagnostic opinions. In the context of animal healing, the client is considered the owner of the animal, while the recipient of healing is the animal itself.

124. The following procedures must be strictly adhered to:

- a The healer shall neither suggest a medical diagnosis nor advise any course of veterinary treatment;
- b Where an animal has already been seen by a vet, the veterinary surgeon remains in charge of the case. In such circumstances, it would be good practice to send a regular progress report to the vet. A consent form should be signed by the animal's owner/carer at the initial appointment;
- c The administration of healing in an emergency for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain is permissible;
- d With regard to notifiable diseases in animals, the same principle applies to animals as humans. If a healer becomes aware of an animal suffering from a notifiable disease, they should notify the relevant authority (see Reference Section VIII). For a list of current notifiable diseases in animals check: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/notifiable-diseases-in-animals>
- e It is not permitted for healers to give advice relating to the treatment of animals including diet, herbs, essential oils and other remedies.
- f Consider whether the animal has given consent for healing. If the healer notices any symptoms of distress in the animal during a healing, they should stop immediately.
- g It is recommended that healers wishing to work with animals should consider undertaking specialist training. International members should check the law in their country of work. This enables them to ensure the safety of the animal they are working with, the animal's carers and their own safety.
- h Healers who work with horses should have adequate horse handling experience and equine behaviour knowledge to work with these animals safely.
- i The healer must not place themselves in situations beyond their knowledge and competence.

Section 9 - PUBLICITY: ADVERTISING, MEDIA AND RESEARCH

Advertising

125. All advertising content (including websites and social media) must adhere to the UK Advertising Codes (CAP) regulated by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). International members are also expected to adhere to these standards or their equivalent in their respective regions. Specifically, advertising content should maintain a dignified tone; not be misleading, exaggerated or false; must not cause harm or offence; and should be inclusive.
126. Healers are prohibited from making claims that they can treat, heal, or cure any medical condition. However, advertisements may state “healing can support individuals with health conditions.”
127. Members should never use titles for, or descriptions of, themselves or their treatment that could mislead or confuse members of the public. Any testimonials used in advertising must be accompanied by the written permission of each client and must be genuine. In accordance with GDPR rules, it is advisable to use only first names or initials in testimonials.

Use of Initials ‘MTHT’ and The Healing Trust Logo by Members

128. Healer members may use the initials MTHT after their name to denote Healer Member of The Healing Trust. Alternatively, the words “Healer Member of The Healing Trust” may be used.
129. Individual healer members are permitted to use the logo to promote themselves as a healer (and with no additional therapies). Promotion might include a member’s own website, a personal profile page within a larger website, and on promotional literature for their healing services. Promotion of healing services is subject to a healer’s membership being current and their record being clear. The logo may not be used by other categories of individual member, or by healer members who are subject to disciplinary proceedings. Students and community members should consult Reference Section II (a-b).

Use of the Healing Trust Logo by Tutors

130. Tutors are permitted to use the Charity’s logo when promoting the Charity’s courses for which they are currently licensed.
131. Tutors on a sabbatical may apply to the Office to use the logo for course promotion purposes in advance of the licence renewal date. To qualify for this, the proposed course start date must be publicly advertised, and the licence must be renewed before that date.
132. Tutors whose licence has lapsed, or who are subject to disciplinary proceedings, are not authorised to use the logo and must remove it from any and all websites or webpages associated with their name.

Use of the Healing Trust Logo and Charity Number for Events

133. The Charity's logo and charity number may only be used to advertise events organised on behalf of the Charity and approved by the Office. Please note the logo was changed in September 2024. Only the current logo should be used unless otherwise directed.

Use of the Healing Trust Logo by Healing Centres

134. Centres of The Healing Trust, run under the auspices of the Charity, should be known as The Healing Trust Healing Centre (not NFSH).

135. It is a requirement for each centre to check that all members have up-to-date membership and are insured in order to legitimately continue to use the logo.

136. Healing centres at which healer members of The Healing Trust work alongside non-members, or other complementary therapists, are not permitted to use the logo for any promotional purposes or on their website.

Section 10 - CORPORATE IDENTIY AND ONLINE PRESENCE

The Charity's Stationery

137. Only the Charity's officers, the Office, regional chairpersons, and leaders/chairpersons of registered centres may use the Charity's materials bearing the logo e.g. headed notepaper.

Charity Number

138. The registered charity number is for the sole use of the Charity. It must only appear on items forming part of the Charity's official stationery, publications, or events organised on behalf of, and approved by the Charity.

Media and Research

139. Media: Any enquiries from media sources should be referred to the Office.

140. Research: Healers should inform the Office whenever research studies into healing involving members of The Healing Trust are being undertaken.

Online Presence

141. A member must have permission from the trustees before creating or hosting any internet site or social media presence which claims to be part of The Healing Trust or any of its regions or represents or acts as any kind of official forum for members of The Healing Trust.

Lapsed Members

142. If a healer ceases to be a member or lapses in their membership, all references to membership of The Healing Trust must be removed from all websites, social media and other promotional material, until such time as membership is reinstated. Failure to do so would be misrepresentation.

Section 11 - REFERENCE SECTION

The additional information provided in this section will not be assessed by the Healer Membership Assessment Panel.

I Students and Community Members

- a Students should always clearly inform a client that they are currently undergoing training with The Healing Trust and should verify that the client is comfortable with this arrangement before providing healing. Students and community members must not create the impression that they are qualified healers with The Healing Trust until they have successfully completed the accreditation process through an assessment Panel and have graduated to healer member status.
- b Case supervision: Students should inform clients that they may occasionally need to discuss cases with their tutor and/or mentor, ensuring that client identity is protected. If working in a centre of The Healing Trust, students should seek guidance from their centre chairperson.
- c Healing in public: Students and community members providing healing at healing centres, exhibitions and similar events must have completed training course Parts 1 and 2, have current insurance, and be supervised by a qualified healer member. A recommended ratio of 1:3 healers to students/community members is advised for healing in public.

II Publicly Promoting Your Services

- a Students: Students may promote their services after completing a) training course Parts 1 and 2, and b) have the written consent of their tutor to work on members of the public, solely for the fulfilment of training requirements. Any promotional material must state clearly that they are a student member of The Healing Trust and only spiritual healing may be offered. Use of the Charity logo is prohibited.
- b Community Members: Community members are not permitted to publicly promote their services, as they are neither in training nor qualified healer members.

III Public Healing - Healing Centres/Exhibitions

- a For public information, a standard privacy notice (as per UK GDPR) should be displayed in all healing centres.
- b Whenever healing in public e.g. at healing centres, exhibitions or during demonstrations, the act of healing should always be given in accordance with The Healing Trust's current training. (See the videos/slides in the members' section of the website.)
- c When working at a centre of The Healing Trust, or in circumstances when working on behalf of the Charity (e.g. at an exhibition), all monies received, after payment of reasonable expenses, must go to the Charity.

- d When healing on a couch provided by a centre of The Healing Trust, the couch is covered by the public liability section of the policy held by The Healing Trust (or with an associated centre). Always check the couch to make sure that it is stable, as far as one can tell, before allowing a client to get on to it.
- e Additional guidance notes are available for exhibitions and should always be used by those organising and/or participating.
- f A music licence is required for the venue, if playing commercial music in public, unless royalty-free music is used.

IV Parental Responsibility

- a Parental responsibility is a legal concept that lasts until a child reaches adulthood.
- b The mother of a child generally has parental responsibility.
- c The biological father of a child automatically has parental responsibility when he is married to the child's mother.
- d If the father is not married to the mother, he may acquire parental responsibility by agreement with the mother or by court order in the UK.
- e Others can, by court order, acquire parental responsibility such as guardianship or a Residence Order.
- f Local authorities can also acquire parental responsibility when a child is placed under a Care Order by the court.
- g Parental responsibility can be shared.
- h Members outside the UK should check how the law applies in their country. The law relating to consent and those under 16, includes the Gillick competence' test: this became part of UK law when Victoria Gillick, a parent of young teenage children, challenged the right of a person under 16 to ask for confidentiality in relation to contraceptive advice. After an unsuccessful challenge in court, an appeal was taken to the House of Lords from where the Gillick Competence and Fraser guidelines were established in law. This means that a child under 16 can be deemed competent to make their own choices – however, this is at the discretion and assessment of the professional adult to whom the child appeals e.g. a doctor. These guidelines help people who work with children and vulnerable adults to balance the need to listen to their wishes, with the responsibility to keep them safe. See NSPCC updated guidelines: 5 August 2022.
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/gillick-competence-fraser-guidelines>

V Safeguarding

a Healers working with children or vulnerable adults should seek further information about child/adult protection schemes via the local authority's designated officer (LADO) (or equivalent if outside the UK).

b Additional information on safeguarding is available on the following webpages:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/spotting-signs-child-abuse/>
<https://www.gov.uk/childcare-parenting/safeguarding-and-social-care-for-children>
<https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse>
<https://www.gov.uk/report-abuse-of-older-person>

VI Healthcare or Social Care Settings

It is expected that all healers will use energy protection for both themselves and their clients (see GAPP: The Four Stages of Attunement). Additionally, the following advice is recommended:

a Before visiting a patient, it is advisable to take a bath or shower. Hands should be washed thoroughly before entering a hospital ward and after any contact with individuals or surfaces. It is essential for all visitors to use the alcohol gel provided by hospitals before and after seeing a patient. In epidemic or pandemic situations, additional protocols will be necessary, and healers should adhere to hospital and government guidelines.

VII The National Health Service (UK)

Government policy permits a doctor registered with the General Medical Council (GMC) to use or prescribe therapies, including spiritual/energy healing. (DHSS letter UNP/13 of 29.1985)

A Government Statement of 3 December 1991 confirmed a registered medical practitioner's right to delegate treatment of patients to specialists including complementary therapists. The National Health Service can pay for such treatment. In addition, patients may refer themselves to healers and meet any costs involved.

VIII Legislation Relating to Healing

This information is applicable to UK Law. International members should check legislation relating to healing within their own country of residence.

The main areas of legislation include:

- Access to Medical Reports Act 1988
- Access to Health Records Act 1990 (covers records of deceased persons)
- Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001
- Cancer Act 1939
- Care Act 2014
- Children Act 1989 (Section 47)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Equality Act 2010
- UK General Data Protection Regulation 2018
- Health And Safety At Work etc Act 1974
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Mental Capacity Act 2005 Code of Practice
- Mental Health Act 2025
- National Health Service (Venereal Diseases) Regulations 1974
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and the accompanying PACE Codes of Practice
- Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
- Protection of Children Act 1999
- Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984
- Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Suicide Act 1961

IX The Healing of Animals

Healers must not breach the terms of the following or any other relevant legislation:

- Animal Health Act 1981 and 2002
- Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986
- Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Protection of Animals Act 1911 and 1934
- Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966

If you suspect a notifiable disease in the animal you are treating, you must report it immediately by calling the Defra Rural Services Helpline on:

- 0300 020 0301 for England
- 0300 303 8268 for Wales
- In Scotland, contact your local Field Services Office, which you will find on this webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-your-local-apha-scotland-field-services-office>

X Copyright

Designs and Patents Act 1988 (with respect of PPL licences for playing recorded music).

