



Association of Hong Kong Hospital Christian Chaplaincy Ministry  
香港醫院院牧事工聯會

# Code of Ethics for Professional Chaplains

《院牧專業守則》

This paper is written with the reference of '*Code of Ethics, Association of Professional Chaplains, Inc., September 2000*' and passed by the Board of Directors of Association of Hong Kong Hospital Christian Chaplaincy Ministry on 25 April 2009.

## Introduction

This Code of Ethics for Professional Chaplains is set forth by Association of Hong Kong Hospital Christian Chaplaincy Ministry<sup>1</sup>, and aimed at notifying members of the Association and related organizations with whom they work with principles and values of the professional chaplains. As a professional chaplain and a registered chaplain of the Association, each member has to affirm this Code and hold oneself accountable to it. Membership in the Association implies agreement to participate with integrity in any process of the Association to hold oneself or other members accountable to this Code, and to accept the Standards and judgments of the Association.

### 1. General Principles and Values

Chaplains should demonstrate commitment to the followings values.

- 1.1 The individual person possesses dignity and worth.
- 1.2 The spiritual dimension of a person is an essential part of an individual's striving for health, wholeness and meaning in life.
- 1.3 The spiritual care of persons is a critical aspect of holistic healthcare.
- 1.4 Inclusivity and diversity are foundational values in spiritual care.

### 2. Ethical Standards for Chaplains

- 2.1 Chaplains should treat all persons with dignity and respect
  - 2.1.1 Chaplains should serve all persons without discrimination regardless of religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age and disability.
  - 2.1.2 Chaplains should demonstrate respect for opinions, beliefs and professional endeavors of other members, their colleagues and those with whom they have contact in their professional role as chaplain.
  - 2.1.3 Chaplains should affirm the religious and spiritual freedom of all persons and refrain from imposing doctrinal positions or spiritual practices on persons whom they encounter in their professional role as chaplain.
  - 2.1.4 Chaplains should not condone or support unlawful discrimination against colleagues or others with whom they have contact in their professional role as chaplain.
  - 2.1.5 Chaplains should not use their professional position with, or knowledge of, another for personal gain.
  - 2.1.6 Chaplains should refrain from emotional, financial, sexual or any other form of exploitation. They should have holy life and should not exhibit any behaviors against Christian teachings.

---

<sup>1</sup>Or the related professional body set up in the future.

- 2.2 Chaplains should respect the privacy of all persons.
- 2.2.1 Chaplains should follow the policies of their employing institutions regarding patient confidentiality sharing private information about those whom they serve only according to those policies.
  - 2.2.2 Chaplains should refrain from relating experiences that expose the vulnerabilities of those served to derision or ridicule.
  - 2.2.3 Chaplains should seek to guard the identities of those served in any consultations or presentations unless the person served, or their family if the person cannot give consent, has given the member written permission for disclosure of the relationship.
  - 2.2.4 Chaplains should respect the private communication of colleagues unless to do so would violate the safety and well-being of another or be in conflict with the policies of the employing institution, healthcare organization, the Association, or the laws of the government or the State.
- 2.3 Chaplains should demonstrate themselves with integrity in all their professional relationship.
- 2.3.1 Chaplains should accurately represent their professional qualifications and affiliations.
  - 2.3.2 Chaplains should maintain accurately and currently any patient records, financial accounts or other documents required in the course of their work.
  - 2.3.3 Chaplains should respond with honesty and timeliness to any commission or representative of the Association duly authorized to carry out investigation into their work.
  - 2.3.4 Chaplains should provide the Association immediate notice of any complaint of unethical conduct made against them in a civil or criminal prosecution, and they should provide the Association, in a timely fashion the information they request regarding the investigation, adjudication, dismissal or settlement of such complaint. Failure to report or provide accurate, full and truthful information constitutes a violation of this Code. A finding of unethical conduct may lead to discipline within the Association even if the event did not occur within the scope of the member's professional role as a chaplain or a situation over which the Association would have jurisdiction.

- 2.4 Chaplains should conform to the Association’s expectations of competency.
- 2.4.1 Chaplains should have an active participation and good standing within the faith communities in which they are ordained, or commissioned or endorsed.
  - 2.4.2 Chaplains should pursue personal growth and professional development in theology, spirituality, pastoral skills, and others areas, so as to enhance professional proficiency.
  - 2.4.3 Chaplains should make referrals or obtain consultations for the best interest of those served, and maintain interdisciplinary and inter-professional relationships to foster the practice.
  - 2.4.4 Chaplains should take responsible actions when they become aware of their impairment, or otherwise unable to maintain the Association’s Code of Ethics to professional competency.
- 2.5 Chaplains should conform to the Code of Ethics for Professional Chaplains.
- 2.5.1 Chaplains should endeavor to adhere to the ethical standard of professional chaplains.
  - 2.5.2 Chaplains should not encourage other chaplains to violate the Code of Ethics directly or indirectly when having knowledge of the situation.
  - 2.5.3 Chaplains should not veil their own or other’s violation of the Code of Ethics directly or indirectly from the Association when having knowledge of the situation.

— **END** —