Preamble
The World Federation of Music Therapy strongly urges each member association to develop its own codes of ethical standards for professionals. This process also involves defining in each respective country the definition of music therapy and the designation of professionals to whom the code applies.

The World Federation of Music Therapy provides fundamental principals to guide music therapists’ professional behaviors. The following document has been developed to provide guidelines for associations developing localized professional codes of ethics.

A. Responsibilities to the Client
The welfare of the client is of utmost concern and responsibility for the music therapist. In offering music therapy services to clients, the following principals should be upheld:

1. The music therapist respects the rights and dignity of the client and at all times acts in the client’s best interest.
2. The music therapist does not discriminate in relationships with clients on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or clinical problem.
3. The music therapist does not exploit for sexual, financial or emotional reasons, nor for personal gain.
4. The music therapist delivers services only in the context of a professional relationship and in settings, which assure safety for the client.
5. The music therapist adheres to the highest standards of clinical practice.
6. The music therapist assesses both the strengths and weaknesses of the client and develops appropriate treatment goals to meet client needs; the progress of the client is continually evaluated, and information shared with the multidisciplinary team as appropriate.
7. Every available resource is utilized to effect treatment goals.
8. The therapist restricts his or her treatment to those areas in which he or she is adequately trained and does not practice outside his or her area of competence; qualifications and titles of the therapist are accurately stated in all documentation and communications.
9. The music therapist terminates treatment, in agreement with the client, when the client no longer benefits from services.
10. The music therapist protects the confidentiality of the client at all times, including verbal, written, audio, and pictorial information regarding the client. Music therapists can only present...
identifiable information in public forums for the purpose of educating and advocating for music therapy and only after gaining informed consent from clients and/or guardians to display the material, including the scope of the audience (nature and length of time) it will reach.

11. Music therapists must not record or photograph music therapy and other professionals’ presentations of clinical material, unless the clients being portrayed, or their guardians have granted this consent.

12. The music therapist maintains his or her personal mental and physical health. He or she monitors any personal limitations, which may interfere with the quality of work and takes whatever actions necessary to ameliorate these.

13. The music therapist routinely engages in continuing study to maintain and improve knowledge and skills.

B. Responsibilities to Colleagues
   1. The music therapist acts with integrity in regard to colleagues in music therapy and other disciplines.
   2. When a music therapist conducts an initial assessment of a client he or she shall ascertain which other therapies the client is receiving, as appropriate, and work collegiality with other involved therapists as appropriate and possible.
   3. The music therapist does not offer professional services to a person currently receiving music therapy from another professional except by agreement with the therapists involved or after termination of the client’s relationship with that therapist.
   4. The music therapist shall not damage the professional reputation of any other therapist through defamation.

C. Responsibility to the Profession
   1. The music therapist accepts the responsibility to contribute to the growth of the profession and professional organization and enhance its standing in the community.
   2. The music therapist attempts to increase the level of knowledge, skills, and research within the profession.
   3. The music therapist distinguishes personal from professional views when acting on behalf of the association. The music therapist represents their professional association only when authorized to do so.
   4. The music therapist respects the rights, rules, and reputation of the professional association.

D. Responsibility to the Community/Public
   1. The music therapist attempts to increase public awareness of music therapy and represent the professional accurately.
   2. The music therapist respects the social, legal, and moral standards to the community in which he or she works.
   3. The music therapist assists the public in identifying qualified music therapists.

E. Responsibility to Employers
   1. The music therapist observes the policies of the employer assuming they are in clients’ best interests.
   2. The music therapist shall inform the employer of any conditions that may interfere with the quality of the music therapy services.

F. Fees and Remuneration
   1. The music therapist accepts fees in accordance with professional standards.
   2. No gifts or favors should be accepted from clients, which could compromise a therapist’s decision or judgment.

G. Research
   1. The music therapist protects the welfare of participants in music therapy research.
   2. Appropriate authorization from research and ethics committees and/or managers must be obtained prior to undertaking research. This includes observation type research and analysis of retrospectively collected data.
   3. Participation in research is voluntary following an explanation to potential participants (or
guardians) of all the potential risks and benefits possible from involvement in the study. Participants (or guardians) should provide informed consent before research involvement and participants are free to withdraw from the study at any time.

4. The confidentiality of participants should be maintained in reporting research results. One exception to this is if the participants wave their confidentiality right in the informed consent form.

5. In publications or professional presentations of research, the music therapist shall note who approved the research and assign credit to those who have collaborated in the work in proportion to their contribution.

6. The music therapist reports findings in a way that is accurate and in a manner, which avoids distortion and will not be misleading.

H. Responsibilities to Students and/or Supervisees

1. The music therapy educator or supervisor maintains adequate current knowledge of the profession.

2. The music therapist educator/supervisor evaluates students’ knowledge and skills and identifies those students whose limitations may interfere with their performance as a music therapist. The students will be advised to seek assistance and, when appropriate, removed from training. The educator/supervisor shall not undertake therapy with a student for various problems but shall refer them to qualified professionals.

3. The music therapy educator/supervisor provides adequate feedback and supervision necessary to train competent professionals.

4. The music therapy supervisor does not assign responsibilities to unqualified persons without adequate supervision.

5. The music therapy educator/supervisor maintains confidentiality with regard to a student’s progress or failure to progress discussing this only with appropriate persons at the student’s academic institution or with a waiver from other agencies of institutions through the informed consent form.

I. Enforcement of the Code

If a breach of ethics occurs the music therapist shall follow the enforcement of procedures by the music therapy association. If needed the association shall take whatever disciplinary action is warranted. These procedures typically involve the following:

1. Direct confrontation with the person in violation of the code by a fellow professional in an attempt to rectify the problem.

2. If the breach of ethics is not rectified, the professional will contact the ethics committee of the association with a report, which provides documentation of the alleged violation and attempts to rectify it.

3. The committee will then ask for a complete report from the individual against whom the allegations have been made.

4. The committee will determine if a violation to the code has occurred and the appropriate measures to be taken if the individual is found to be in violation.

[Adapted from the “World Federation of Music Therapy, Inc. Model Guidelines for Ethical Conduct, adopted July, 1993].]

Approved by the WFMT council on September 18, 2010