
Church of the Holy Spirit & Peace by the Sea



Healing
Code of Conduct
(Edition 2: 2018)

Code of Conduct

1. Preface

This Code of Conduct is for the benefit and use of all Spiritualist Healers (herein after called 'Healers') serving the Church of the Holy Spirit and Peace by the Sea (herein after called 'the Church'), being a wholly independent Spiritualist Church, and seeks to ensure that the Church's Healers follow a Code of Conduct (herein after called the 'C of C') similar, if independent, to that of the Spiritualist's National Union (SNU).

All Healers serving the Church shall have a working knowledge of this C of C and practise Spiritualist Healing within and on behalf of the Church entirely in accordance with its contents.

2. Table of Contents	Page
1. Preface	2
2. Table of Contents	3
3. Responsibilities, Duties and Functions of Church Healers	4
4. Advertising	8
5. Medical Ethics & General Medical Council Policy	9
6. Forms of Healing	10
7. Code of Practice	12
8. Final Thoughts	16

3. Responsibilities, Duties and Functions of (Church) Healers

Spiritualism as a religion, a science and way of life, is enjoyed by many people who attend the Church (and, indeed, other churches) or else by individual determination, as well as membership of such as the SNU. Spiritual healing has always been part of the Church's purpose and reason for being, with dedicated healing services being held each week, as well as special healing events being arranged on an ad hoc basis.

It is important that the confidence now being given to SNU healing by the medical profession is not undermined by anyone acting irresponsibly or selfishly. It is, therefore, the responsibility of each Healer, serving the Church, to be aware of this C of C and the importance of always working within its confines. Healers should note that the Church's insurance cover only applies when they are giving healing in accordance with this C of C, **which is obligatory**.

Healing should only be given in response to an invitation from the patient or their representative¹.

The minimum standards set out in this C of C identify appropriate behaviour for Healers and are intended to protect the public when they are given healing.

For the purpose of this C of C healing has a specific definition involving the channelling of healing energy through the hands and/or with thought. It does not include massage, manipulation, the use of instruments, drugs, other remedies, the practice of clairvoyance or psychic surgery. It does include 'Distant' and 'Absent' healing (see section 6 below). All Healers are expected to behave appropriately, take responsibility for their own actions and uphold public confidence in healing.

The Church Trustees shall be responsible for establishing a set of procedures to be applied whenever a complaint about a Healer needs to be investigated; entailing the possibility of disciplinary action if this C of C has been breached. A Healer who is the subject of a complaint must co-operate with the representative(s) of the Church Trustees investigating the matter, when called upon to do so, making a reasonable attempt to comply with the procedures and timescales required.

It is the responsibility of the Trustees to be current with all the changes and legislation Healers have to know about; to keep the Church Healers informed of how such might affect Healing and the very business/status of the Church; and to help trainee Healers complete their training successfully.

If a Healer is visiting a patient on behalf of the Church, it is up to the Trustees to decide whether such a visit is appropriate, whether a donation should be accepted, who pays the Healer's expenses (if any) and to inform the Trustees accordingly.

A nominated facilitator holds the responsibility for running the Healing Groups and supervising trainees; albeit training may be delegated to a fully qualified/trained Healer.

The Healers

The Group Facilitator shall interview potential Healers to ascertain their intentions and to see if they would be an asset to the Church healing

¹ Strictly in instances where patients are unable to make that decision for themselves but where it is known that Spiritualist Healing will be welcome.

group, before recommending them (or not) to be trained in this capacity to the Trustees. The person must be a member of the Church.

If then accepted by the Trustees, the Group Facilitator must oversee Trainee Healer's development, instructing them in healing in accordance with this C of C; ensuring they fully understand the requirements and importance of these rules when representing the Church in this important function.

The Trainee Healer should also be helped to understand the flow of healing energy and the different aspects and methods of healing, how to greet patients and explain healing to a patient who is having healing for the first time.

The Trustees must also ensure that all Healers comply with this C of C; treat all patients with courtesy and respect; and check that each Healer's training is up to date.

Any complaint regarding a Healer must be sent in writing via the Trustees.

The Group Facilitator should be familiar with the Church Constitution and Rules and especially this C of C.

It is for the Group Facilitator to ensure that the only healing given in or on behalf of the Church, shall be by suitably qualified Healers.

The Patient

It is the Group Facilitator's responsibility to ensure that every patient is treated with consideration and respect and that confidentiality is maintained.

The format of the Healing Service and explanation of Spiritual Healing must be provided to each new patient and any questions they may have fully answered.

As far as possible each patient must be seen by a Healer who can best deal with their needs.

N.B: Under this C of C a Healer may refuse to give healing to a patient if they feel it to be inappropriate for them to treat that particular patient. Similarly, a patient may refuse to receive healing from a particular Healer.

4. Advertising

Healers may advertise that they offer a general healing service for most diseases/medical conditions. They must not specify healing for any particular disease/medical condition or claim a 'cure' for any.

5. Medical Ethics and General Medical Council Policy

At present Spiritual Healing is legal in Great Britain.

Government policy permits a doctor registered with the General Medical Council to use or prescribe Spiritual Healing.

General Medical Council policy allows a doctor to suggest or agree to a patient seeking the help of a 'Spiritual' Healer, provided the doctor continues to give and remains responsible for, whatever medical treatment he/she considers necessary.

The 'Patients' Charter' states that hospitals have to cater for the patient's Spiritual needs and that includes a patient requesting Spiritual Healing, provided that the doctor treating the patient is informed.

The Government Statement of 3rd December 1991 confirmed a registered medical practitioner's right to delegate treatment of patients to specialists, including complementary therapists. Such treatment can be paid for either by the Health Authorities.

6. Forms of Healing

Spiritual Healing

Defined as a form of healing using the energy from the world of Spirit; channelled through the Healer by the laying-on of hands on or near the body; else prayer or direction of thought from a distance.

Contact Healing

Spiritual Healing involving the laying on of hands directly upon the body.

Near-to-the-Body Healing

Spiritual Healing involving the placing of hands within (say) three inches of the body.

Distant Healing

Healing sent by the power of thought to a person physically present but who is not receiving Contact Healing or Near to the Body Healing.

Absent Healing

Healing sent by the power of thought to a person not physically present.

Absent Healing Book: Listing those for whom healing prayers and thoughts are to be sent.

Trance Healing

Healers should be aware that trance healing is not recognised in Law.

Trance Healing, as defined within this Code of Conduct, means a deep trance state where the Healer is totally unaware of what is happening, being said or done. During this time the Healer experiences a state described as being 'sleep like'. The Healer is unable to influence any part of the proceedings and, therefore, the spirit working through them has total control of the movements their body makes and the words that are spoken. This is a special state or partnership between the Healer and the spirit working with them, where a strong bond of mutual trust and respect has developed, usually over many years.

It is recognised that some Healers work in the altered state of consciousness (trance) and where this is practised it is mandatory that the following criteria be observed:-

- All healing applications must be on a private appointment basis and not conducted publicly.
- A third party to be present at all times during the healing session.
- Public demonstrations of Trance Healing may be held in accordance with the approval of/and any provisions laid down by the Trustees.
- All Trance Healers, before being allowed to practise in the Church, will be required to demonstrate their capability before the Group Facilitator on behalf of the Trustees.

Reiki Healing

Reiki Healing, as now practised in the UK, is derived from a Japanese healing form, devised to reduce stress and promote healing through relaxation; with the energy of the Universal Life Form flowing through the palms of the Healer's hands. 'Rei' ~ 'Ki' translates to 'Higher Power' ~ 'Life Force Energy'.

Reiki sessions normally have the patient lying on a table, where they are invited to relax, following which the Healer will place their hands on the patient's body (although some practitioners may use a technique where the hands are a few centimetres above the patient's body for all or some of the session). The hands are then moved between 12 to 20 positions, taking (up to) 5 minutes per position. Therefore, Reiki Healing can normally occupy in excess of 30 (sometimes 60) minutes per patient, who may also be asked to turn over on the table during the session.

Reiki Healers are graded through: 1st Degree – where basic theory and procedure are taught; 2nd Degree – which goes on to explain the use of symbols; 3rd Degree Master – where attaining students may attune/teach and pass on Reiki techniques to others.

All Reiki Healers, before being allowed to practise in the Church, will be required to demonstrate their capability before the Group Facilitator on behalf of the Trustees.

7. Code of Practice

Healers must:

Always:

- Seek to improve their knowledge and abilities.
- Be respectful and courteous to others.
- Take responsibility for the relationship they have with their patients and ensure that the trust placed in them is upheld.
- Recognise their own limitations and seek help from those with greater skills and experience where required.
- Have insurance protection to the level required by the Trustees.
- Produce details of their Church membership, identification and healing qualification, when asked by a patient.
- Ascertain, whenever necessary, that patients have sought medical advice and recommending, where appropriate, that they do so.
- Be ready to co-operate with the medical profession. By dint of their Spiritual calling a Healer gives an assurance to doctor and patient that they are a person of integrity, sincerity, knowledge and ability (this responsibility cannot be ignored).

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- Understand and act within the law as it relates to healing (for example, confidentiality; access to patients' records and data protection; consent to treatment; child protection; sexually transmitted diseases; infectious diseases; dentistry; midwifery; the sale of remedies , herbs, medicines, supplements, oils, etc., and the treatment of animals).

Never:

- Use titles or descriptions for themselves or their treatment that may mislead the public.
- Countermand instructions or prescriptions given by a doctor.
- Give or offer any other form of treatment or therapy in association with healing unless they are qualified and insured to do so and without first making it clear to the patient and obtaining the patient's specific consent. However, the Healer is not permitted to give or offer any such other form of treatment or therapy whatsoever during the Spiritual Healing session.
- Give healing whilst medically or psychologically unfit to do so.
- Give healing as a Trainee Healer without being accompanied by a qualified Healer unless specifically authorised to do so by their supervisor/trainer and the patient agrees to receive healing from a Healer under training.
- Abuse or exploit a patient sexually, emotionally or in any other way whatsoever.
- Give healing when it is not safe or appropriate for the patient or the Healer. For the protection of Healers discretion and common-sense must be used when carrying out healing with patients who are mentally unstable, addicted to drugs or alcohol, severely depressed or hallucinatory. Such patients must be treated with extreme caution. In such circumstances it may be advisable to suggest absent healing rather than contact healing.
- Discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, religion, political persuasion, sexual preference, age or disability.

Before giving healing Healers must:

Always:

- Explain to a patient, on a first visit, how they give healing, how it is generally experienced.
- Make it clear to a patient how they achieved the appropriate level of training through the Church.
- Ensure, when asked to give healing to an animal, that the treatment given is not construed to be 'veterinary surgery' i.e., diagnosis, giving advice based upon diagnosis or medical or surgical treatment. Where there is concern about the animal's health, the owner is advised to consult a veterinary surgeon.

Never:

- Guarantee, promise, claim or imply a cure.

While giving healing Healers must:

Always:

- Behave with decorum and propriety, establish and then respect the patient's wishes and common decency as to where and how they may or may not be touched. A Healer must not step beyond the bounds of decency by placing their hands directly on or near what are termed 'sensitive areas', such as genitalia or a woman's breasts. Hands must at all times be disciplined and controlled.
- Remember Healers are personally responsible for their actions. They must behave with courtesy, dignity, discretion and tact. Their attitude must be competent and sympathetic, hopeful and positive, thus encouraging an uplift in the patient's mental outlook and a belief in a gradual progression towards wholeness.
- Respect the views and beliefs of the patient.
- Remember Religion should not be discussed by a Healer unless the patient or (their) family raises the subject. Whilst it may be deemed obvious to a patient that the Healer is connected to a religion, they themselves may have their own beliefs and respect must be shown to these.

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- Act in an appropriate manner when attending a patient in hospital or a hospice (for example, obtaining the necessary permission, respecting the responsibility of the hospital/hospice for the patients in their care, carrying identification, giving healing without fuss or interruption to ward staff and other patients and not wearing clothing which gives the impression of being hospital/hospice staff).
 - Have an additional adult present when giving healing to a child under 16.

Never:

- Give healing to patients without their specific consent.
- Ask a patient to remove any clothing other than spectacles, coat, shoes or other incidental items.
- Give a diagnosis to a patient.
- Advise or recommend that a patient undergo a particular form of treatment (e.g., an operation or course of drugs) or interfere with the medical advice or treatment which the patient is receiving.
- Have a third party present (e.g., a Trainee Healer or member of the patient's family) without the patient's (and Healer's) specific consent. **N.B:** The Healer reserves the right to withdraw the offer of healing should the patient not consent to a third person being present.

8. Final Thoughts

Spiritualist Healers are aware that the healing energies are passed through them to the patient's soul or spirit. This then awakens the spirit to the responsibilities it has to its physical vehicle and works towards bringing the whole being into harmony with the entire universe.

When this is achieved, the calming and harmonising effect can be permeated through the other inner levels of being, finally reaching the outer physical body. This is why the first effects of Spiritual Healing can be seen as a loss of pain, tranquillity and a more positive attitude, all of which are indicators that the healing energies are having a beneficial effect upon the patient.

In the experiences of many Spiritualist Healers there has been no recorded adverse effect of healing energy interfering with 'Pacemakers' or any other such appliance.

Where Spiritualist Healers differ from most other healers is in their awareness of the origin of the healing energy and of their work as a channel for that energy to the patient in the form most suited for that individual to receive it.

Spiritualist Healers do not heal; rather do they allow the healing energy to pass through them. It is a simple and gentle act of committal to aid suffering mankind and animals in need.