

Code of Ethics and Practice for Professional Readers

This code is an industry-based standard set of ethics and practices, adapted from the ACA by Hand Analysis Australia. The purpose is to set and improve professional standards in (palm/tarot reader) education and training. The Code of Ethics and Practice of the ACA provides professional conduct standards that can be applied by the ACA (Inc) and other bodies that choose to adopt them in Australia—here offered for the professional readers of palmistry, hand analysis, tarot, or metaphysical services.

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Code of Ethics and Practice for Professional Readers

Experience and Pre-reading Information

- 1.1 As a reader, you have the responsibility not to mislead your client as to the level of your experience, competence, or qualifications. Misleading people this way is a most severe ethical violation as it raises the risk of harm to the customer and the profession's credibility in the public's eyes.
- 1.2 Any publicity material and all written information should accurately reflect the nature of the service on offer and the relevant qualifications and experience of the reader.

Laws and Contracts

- 2.1 You, as the reader, should take reasonable steps to be aware of the federal or local laws and how you portray or advertise your business. Some states or countries have strict rules about practices such as fortune-telling.
- 2.2 Readers who hold accredited qualifications and are members of recognised bodies are encouraged to display or mention this fact.
- 2.3 The reader is responsible for reaching an agreement with their clients about the terms of the reading, including availability, the degree of confidentiality offered, arrangements for the payment of any fees, cancelled appointments and other significant matters.

Boundaries and Client Safety

- 3.1 All readers must take sufficient steps to ensure that the client does not endure physical, emotional, or psychological harm during the palm or card reading session.
- 3.2 You must not exploit your client financially, sexually, emotionally, or any other way.
- 3.3 The reader shall not intimidate the client into making any additional purchase.
- 3.4 If you read in a room, you must have an exit easily accessible to the client should they choose to avail themselves.

Privacy and Confidentiality

- 4.1 The reader must provide privacy for the sessions; they should not be overheard, recorded, or observed by anyone other than the reader without the client's informed consent.
- 4.2 Promise confidentiality. Your client trusts that you will not publicise or discuss personal issues with others.
- 4.3 If you have any client records, it is your responsibility to keep those records safe and secure.

Language Barriers

- 5.1 As a reader, you are responsible for ensuring that you address any problems with common comprehension due to language or cultural differences at an early stage. Consider the use of an interpreter at the start of the reading.

Anti-discriminatory Practice

- 6.1 Honour your clients' uniqueness. You must offer a non-judgmental service, free from discrimination. You must be sensitive to the client's cultural context and worldview, for instance, whether the individual, family or community is central.

- 6.2 You, as a reader, have a duty to consider and address your prejudices, stereotyping or behaviour. Give regard to ways in which these attitudes may be affecting or influencing your responses.

Client Self-determination

- 7.1 Determine the helping relationship to maintain the client's empowerment without offering advice. It is best if you encourage your client to make their own decisions.
- 7.2 It would be best to ask questions during a reading to verify that your interpretations agree with what your client is experiencing.

Competence

- 8.1 You are responsible for monitoring your performance.
- 8.2 Do not do readings when impaired by alcohol or drugs (be they illicit or licit).
- 8.3 In situations of personal or emotional trouble, excessive tiredness, or illness, you should monitor the point at which you are no longer competent to practice and act accordingly.
- 8.4 Readers are responsible for ensuring that their emotional needs do not unduly influence their client relationships.

Your Rights

- 9.1 You reserve the right to refuse a client if circumstances do not satisfy your ethics, such as if the client is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 9.2 You have the right to decide if the reading is appropriate for a person under 18.
- 9.3 You reserve the right to refuse to answer questions you deem unethical or illegal.
- 9.4 You have the right to choose not to read for any potential client if you are uncomfortable doing so.
- 9.5 You do not have to offer a guarantee.

HAVE A CLEAR OUTLINE OF YOUR ETHICS

Examples of Personal Codes of Ethics and Practice:

- Readings are for entertainment purposes only.
- We do not provide services for anyone under the age of 18.
- We do not give medical, legal, or financial advice. Please consult the appropriate experts for these matters.
- We do not practice fortune-telling or guarantee that we can predict the future.
- We cannot take any responsibility for actions that you might take based on your reading.
- We reserve the right to abstain from answering questions that we consider unethical or illegal.
- As readers, we will interpret the palms or cards to the best of our ability. We will conduct the reading honestly and openly; if we cannot decrypt the cards or palms clearly, we will tell you that.