

Code of Ethics

There is hereby created the "Oklahoma Chiropractic Code of Ethics." This Code of Ethics is based upon the fundamental principle that the ultimate end and objective of the chiropractic physician's professional services and effort should be: "The greatest good for the patient."

- (1) Chiropractic physicians shall attend their patients as often as they consider necessary to ensure the well-being of their patients, but should avoid unnecessary treatments;
- (2) Having once undertaken to serve a patient, chiropractic physicians shall not neglect the patient. Chiropractic physicians shall not terminate their professional services to patients without taking reasonable steps to protect such patients, including due notice to them allowing sufficient time for obtaining professional services of others, delivering to their patients all papers and documents in compliance with paragraph 3 of this subsection;
- (3) Chiropractic physicians shall comply with a patient's authorization to provide records, or copies of such records, to those persons whom the patient designates as authorized to inspect or receive all or part of such records. A reasonable charge may be made for the cost of copying records. Unpaid charges incurred by the patient are not grounds for refusal to release records.
- (4) Subject to paragraph 3 of this subsection, chiropractic physicians should preserve and protect the patient's confidences and records, except as the patient directs or consents, or if the law requires otherwise. They should not discuss a patient's history, symptoms, diagnosis, or treatment with a lawyer until they have received the informed consent of the patient or the patient's personal representative. They should avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of their patients;
- (5) Chiropractic physicians shall maintain the highest standards of professional and personal conduct and shall refrain from all illegal or morally reprehensible conduct;
- (6) Chiropractic physicians shall assure that the patient possesses enough information to enable an intelligent choice in regard to proposed chiropractic treatment. The patient shall make his or her own determination on such treatment;
- (7) Chiropractic physicians shall observe the appropriate laws, decisions and rules of state governmental agencies of the United States and the State of Oklahoma and cooperate with the pertinent activities.
- (8) Chiropractic physicians may advertise but shall exercise utmost care that such advertising is relevant to the selection of a chiropractic physician, is accurate, truthful, not misleading, false or deceptive, and is scrupulously correct in representing the chiropractic physician's professional status and area of special competence. Communications to the public shall not appeal primarily to an

individual's anxiety or create unjustified expectations of results. Chiropractic physicians shall conform to all applicable state laws, rules and judicial decisions in connection with professional advertising;

- (9) Chiropractic physicians may testify either as experts or when their patients are involved in court cases, workers' compensation proceedings or in other similar proceedings in personal injury or related cases.
- (10) The chiropractic profession shall address itself to improvements in licensing procedures consistent with the development of the profession and of relevant advances in science;
- (11) Chiropractic physicians who are public officers part time or full time, shall not engage in activities which are, or may be perceived to be, in conflict with their official duties;
- (12) Chiropractic physicians shall not commit fraud, misrepresentation, or deception which includes, but is not limited to:
 - (A) Practicing or attempting to practice e chiropractic under false or assumed name;
 - (B) Aiding, assisting, or advising another in the unlicensed practice of chiropractic;
 - (C) Fraud or deceit in obtaining or renewing a license to practice chiropractic;
 - (D) Making false or misleading statements or withholding relevant information regarding the qualifications of any individual in order to attempt to obtain a license or engage in the practice of chiropractic;
 - (E) Failing to report past, present, or pending disciplinary action by another licensing board or the current status of the final administrative disposition of a matter. A licensee is required to report any compromise or settlement of disciplinary action, whether voluntary or involuntary, which results in encumbrance of licensure;
 - (F) Making or filing a report which the licensee knows to be false, intentionally or negligently failing to file a report or record required by state or federal law, or willfully impeding or obstructing another person to do so. Such reports or records shall include only those which are signed by the licensee in his/her capacity as a licensed chiropractic physician;
 - (G) Submitting to any patient, insurer or third-party payor a claim for a service or treatment which was not actually provided to a patient.
- (13) Chiropractic physicians shall not violate any lawful order of the Board previously entered in a disciplinary hearing or fail to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena of the Board.
- (14) Chiropractic physicians shall not make statements which in any way reflect against a fellow licensee including statements which imply superiority over another licensee.