

Canadian Professional Piercers Association (CPPA)

Code of Ethics

Purpose

The CPPA Code of Ethics establishes shared values and expectations for members, directors, officers, and volunteers. It exists to support education, professionalism, and respectful community engagement within the piercing community.

1. Commitment to Education

Members commit to:

- Ongoing learning and professional development
- Sharing knowledge responsibly and accurately
- Supporting evidence-based practices and harm reduction

2. Client Safety & Informed Consent

Members commit to:

- Prioritizing client health, safety, and autonomy
- Practicing informed consent
- Respecting client boundaries, dignity, and privacy

3. Ethical & Professional Conduct

Members commit to:

- Acting with honesty and integrity
- Avoiding misleading claims or misrepresentation
- Conducting themselves professionally in public and private forums

4. Respectful Community Engagement

Members commit to:

- Treating colleagues, clients, and educators with respect
- Engaging in constructive dialogue, even in disagreement
- Avoiding harassment, discrimination, or harmful behaviour

CPPA does not tolerate harassment or discrimination, including but not limited to conduct based on:

- Race or ethnicity
- Nationality or religion
- Gender, gender identity, or gender expression
- Sexual orientation
- Disability or accessibility needs
- Age or any other protected characteristic

Members are expected to contribute to an environment that is inclusive, welcoming, and safe for all.

5. Education-First Culture

CPPA prioritizes:

- Learning over judgment
- Guidance over punishment
- Growth over exclusion

CPPA is **not a regulatory, licensing, or enforcement body** and does not function as a disciplinary authority.

6. Accountability

Members acknowledge that ethical concerns may be addressed through education, dialogue, or mediation where appropriate.

Repeated or serious violations may result in **suspension or removal of membership in accordance with the CPPA Bylaws**.

Membership decisions, including suspension or removal, are made at the discretion of the Board.

7. Representation of CPPA

Members, directors, officers, and volunteers commit to:

- Representing CPPA accurately and responsibly
- Avoiding statements that imply regulatory authority
- Acting in alignment with CPPA's mission and values
- Maintaining confidentiality of sensitive organizational information where applicable

Compliance

Compliance with this Code of Ethics is a condition of CPPA membership. Failure to maintain this ethics code may result in a review of membership status in accordance with CPPA's Membership Policies. This Code of Ethics should be read alongside the CPPA Minimum Standards Document, which outlines the professional and studio standards expected of all members.

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Promoting safer body piercing through education, professionalism, and community.