Yoga Teachers Code of Ethics

Yoga Teachers offer experiential programs within a safe environment, the nature of yoga (union of the body, mind and spirit) on or off the mat is to induce non-ordinary states of consciousness, in the process of opening the body and psyche, though which profound transformation can occur. As a teacher of any program or class, we are stewards of the trust our students place in us. It is our responsibility to uphold and foster this sacred, safe environment in which to allow this work to happen. It is essential that anyone teaching has a high degree of personal integrity and maintains clear boundaries in the role of serving the students.

Holding ourselves as teachers’ places us in a position of power to the students, however subtle or obvious. We become their mentors, facilitators and helpers. Some students may idealize us or project that we are wiser or more evolved than they are.

As professionals, we must remain aware of this power dynamic and never exploit the vulnerability of a student for our personal gain or gratification. As teachers, we must follow the codes of the Yamas and Niyamas, in all our interactions with students.

Agreement

Specifically, I agree to the following code of ethics while I am a Yoga Teacher:

- I agree to hold myself as a steward of safe and sacred space by maintaining clear, personal and professional boundaries. I will continually be aware of my position of power and influence in relationship to my students, being specifically attentive to the non-projection of my own agendas, perceptions and outcomes on the students. I will not seek to fulfill my needs at the students’ expense (be it money, sex, power, love, truth, insight or oneness.)

- I agree that my purpose of a yoga teacher is to serve the student’s personal exploration. I agree that I will avoid any activity or influence that is conflict with the best interest of the students or is solely for my own personal gain or gratification.

- I agree to hold myself as steward of safe and sacred space by exercising caution and applying the principles of the yamas and niyamas in romantic or sexual relationships with students in my trust. I understand that any sexual relationship or romantic relationship is potentially distracting and possibly even harmful for the student who has come to do inner work. I will not invite, act on, respond to or allow sexual, romantic contact with a student during the time that person is in my class, even if the student is the initiator. This is not appropriate in the classroom.

- If a romantic attraction does develop with a student, I agree to seek support and clarity from the Director of the Yoga Program before acting on the attraction. I understand that the purpose of the ethics and this agreement is to protect the environment of sanctuary for
the students and to support the clarity, consciousness, and self-responsibility of individuals. I understand that the yoga program develops an individual approach to each situation in a dialogue.

- I agree to represent my qualifications honestly and provide only the services I am qualified and certified to perform. I agree to refrain from recommending treatment, diagnosing a condition, or suggesting a student disregard a physician’s advice. I understand that I am present to my students in this venue to teach yoga, not to be a physician, psychologist, or priest.

I understand that all actions that breach the principles of this code will be fairly investigated. I understand that if the situation warrants, my certification as a yoga teacher may be revoked.

I have read and understand this document in its entirety and agree to honor this code of ethics. I also understand that by signing the Yoga Teacher Training, Basic Certification, Criteria and Certification Agreement I am entering into a legal contract that incorporates all aspects of this ethics agreement as stated in Certification Agreement.

Agreement

I have read and understand the above Yoga Teacher’s Code of Ethics and Supports. If certified I will teach in a manner expressively approved in the above document and will meet all ethical requirements in this agreement as a condition of continued certification.

Name: ___________________________________________________________

Signed: ______________________________ Date: ____________________