

Introduction

This *Professional Boundaries Standard of Practice* outlines expectations for registrants' conduct while working with clients, colleagues, students, supervisees, and the broader community.

Standard

College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Manitoba (CASLPM) registrants conduct themselves with respect and integrity in all professional interactions, exercising sound judgment, and maintaining professional boundaries at all times. Registrants ensure that relationships are established ethically, sustained with professionalism, and conclude in a manner that upholds the dignity and welfare of all parties involved.

Demonstrating the Standard

Registrants will:

- Obtain informed consent before initiating physical contact or entering a client's personal space prior to the initiation of any services.
- Remain mindful of inherent power dynamics within therapeutic and other professional relationships (e.g. student-supervisor relationship). Registrants recognize that awareness of these imbalances is essential to fostering respectful interactions that preserve the autonomy and dignity of those under the registrant's care or supervision.
- Regularly assess and reflect on the nature of professional relationships, recognizing that boundaries may shift over time and are shaped by each individual's unique experiences, culture, background, values, and perspectives.
- Demonstrate discernment between appropriate professional conduct and behaviours that may undermine trust, compromise professional integrity, or violate established boundaries.
- Maintain a professional tone and refrain from conduct that could reasonably be perceived as unprofessional, discriminatory, or infringing on human rights. This includes avoiding sexually suggestive, demeaning, disrespectful, harassing or biased comments or actions across all forms of communication – whether in person, written, electronic, or via social media.
- Identify and address actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest that may compromise professional relationships with clients, colleagues, students, or others.
- Exercise sound professional judgment when considering gift-giving, ensuring that such actions do not blur professional boundaries, compromise objectivity, or create perceptions of favouritism, obligation, or special treatment.

- Approach professional relationships with friends or relatives with caution due to the risk of impaired objectivity, boundary violations, and conflict of interest.
- Critically evaluate their ability to remain impartial and determine whether the relationship could affect the quality of care.
- Terminate professional relationships ethically when boundaries cannot be appropriately established or maintained. In such cases, registrants must facilitate transfer of care to a qualified alternative provider, taking all reasonable steps to minimize disruption and ensure continuity of treatment.