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# Conflict of Interest Policy for Jackson Ilyas Therapy Solutions Private Practice

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2023

**Last Review Date:** January 1, 2025

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## Introduction

At Jackson Ilyas Therapy Solutions Private Practice, we are committed to providing high-quality, ethical, and professional care to all of our clients. In order to maintain the trust and integrity of the therapeutic relationship, it is essential to identify and manage any conflicts of interest that could influence professional judgment or create a bias in treatment. This policy outlines the expectations and procedures for addressing conflicts of interest within the therapeutic setting.

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## 1. Definition of Conflict of Interest

A **conflict of interest** arises when a therapist's personal interests, relationships, or external obligations could interfere with or appear to interfere with their ability to provide unbiased, professional care to a client. Conflicts of interest may involve personal, financial, professional, or familial relationships that could compromise the objectivity of the therapist's decisions or actions.

## 2. Types of Conflicts of Interest

- **Personal Relationships:** A conflict may arise if the therapist has a personal relationship (e.g., family, friendship, romantic) with a current or potential client. This could create challenges in maintaining professional boundaries and objectivity in therapy.
- **Financial Interests:** A conflict may arise if the therapist has financial interests in a product, service, or business that they recommend to clients. For example, recommending a particular treatment or therapy tool in which the therapist has a financial stake could create an undue influence on the client's treatment.
- **Dual Relationships:** A dual relationship occurs when a therapist has multiple roles with a client (e.g., both therapist and friend, therapist and business partner). This can blur professional boundaries and create conflicts in providing objective care.
- **External Obligations:** Conflicts may also arise from external obligations, such as personal financial pressures or commitments to third-party entities (e.g., insurance companies, employers, or third-party providers), which may influence the therapist's professional decisions or behavior.

- **Professional Relationships:** Conflicts may arise if the therapist has a professional relationship (e.g., supervisor, colleague) with someone who is also a client. In this case, the therapist may find it difficult to maintain impartiality or objectivity.
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### 3. Therapist's Responsibilities

- **Disclosure:** The therapist must disclose any potential or perceived conflicts of interest as soon as they arise, before or during the therapy process. This includes relationships or financial interests that may influence treatment.
  - **Addressing Conflicts:** If a conflict of interest is identified, the therapist will take appropriate steps to address the situation, which may include referring the client to another qualified professional, modifying treatment plans, or adjusting their professional responsibilities.
  - **Objectivity:** The therapist must prioritize the well-being of the client and avoid any actions or decisions that could be influenced by personal gain, favoritism, or any external interests.
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### 4. Managing Conflicts of Interest

- **Referral to Another Therapist:** If the therapist determines that a conflict of interest could affect the quality of care, they may recommend that the client see another therapist or professional who can provide an unbiased, objective perspective.
  - **Clear Boundaries:** In cases of dual relationships, the therapist will set clear, professional boundaries to ensure the therapeutic relationship remains focused on the client's needs. The therapist will avoid situations where their roles become intertwined or where their judgment may be compromised.
  - **Transparent Communication:** Open communication with clients about potential conflicts of interest is crucial. If a conflict arises, the therapist will ensure that the client is fully informed about the situation and the steps being taken to address it.
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### 5. Financial Conflicts of Interest

- **Referral and Treatment Recommendations:** Therapists must avoid recommending services, products, or treatments in which they have a financial interest. If such a recommendation is made, the therapist must fully disclose any financial interest and ensure that the client's decision is not unduly influenced.
- **Accepting Gifts or Compensation:** Therapists must avoid accepting significant gifts, gratuities, or payments from clients that could create a sense of obligation or influence their professional judgment. Small tokens of appreciation (e.g., Ramadan) may be accepted, but they should not be of significant monetary value (less than \$20).

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## 6. Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest

- **Confidentiality:** Even when a conflict of interest is identified, confidentiality must remain a top priority. Any information regarding the conflict should be discussed with the client in a way that maintains their privacy and respects professional boundaries.
- **Disclosure of Conflicts to Third Parties:** If a conflict of interest involves third parties (e.g., insurance companies, family members), the therapist will obtain the client's written consent before discussing any personal or treatment-related information.

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## 7. Ethical and Legal Compliance

- The therapist will comply with all applicable **ethical guidelines** and **legal requirements** concerning conflicts of interest, including those set forth by professional organizations such as the **American Psychological Association (APA)**, and relevant licensing boards.
- Violations of this conflict of interest policy may result in **disciplinary action**, including the **termination of the therapist-client relationship** and possible **reporting to the relevant licensing board**.

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## 8. Procedure for Reporting Conflicts of Interest

- **Client Reporting:** If a client believes that a conflict of interest exists, they are encouraged to discuss the matter with the therapist directly. If they feel uncomfortable doing so, they may request to speak with a supervisor or another professional in the practice.
- **Therapist Reporting:** Therapists must immediately disclose any potential conflicts to the practice's leadership or ethics committee for review and resolution.

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## 9. Acknowledgment

By signing this policy, both the therapist and the client acknowledge that they have read and understand the **Conflict of Interest Policy**. The therapist agrees to manage any conflicts of interest in a manner that prioritizes the well-being and trust of the client, while the client agrees to communicate openly if they perceive any conflicts during the course of therapy.

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**Client's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Client's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Therapist's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Therapist's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Conclusion**

This **Conflict of Interest Policy** is designed to ensure transparency, fairness, and professionalism in the therapeutic relationship. By addressing potential conflicts of interest in a proactive manner, both the therapist and the client can work together to maintain a trusting, objective, and effective therapeutic environment.