



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHOSEXUAL THERAPISTS

Therapist Directory

Listing Policy and Profile Guidelines

Approved by the Executive Board on September 17, 2026

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How to Read This Policy

This Policy has two kinds of text. The numbered provisions state what is required of members. They are binding, and they use must for a requirement, should for an expectation, and may for a permission.

Explanation. Blocks set out like this one are Explanations. They give the reasoning behind a provision, or the context needed to apply it.

An Explanation is not binding and creates no obligation of its own. Where an Explanation appears to conflict with the provision it accompanies, the provision governs.

Provisions are cited by their numbering. IV.B.2 is Part IV, Section B, provision 2.

This Policy sits alongside the IAPST Code of Ethics and the Association's other membership policies. Where it differs from the Code of Ethics, the Code governs.

I. PURPOSE AND ELIGIBILITY

1. **Purpose.** The IAPST Therapist Directory is a public-facing resource for people seeking a psychosexual therapist. It exists to serve them rather than to market the practices of members, and every provision of this Policy follows from that.
2. **Eligibility.** Listing is open to Full Members and Certified Members in good standing.
 - a. A Certified Member's listing carries a badge indicating that the member holds IAPST certification, and a control that displays the certificate directly.
 - b. Each listing states the basis on which it appears, so that a visitor understands the difference between a certified and a non-certified listing without needing to know the Association's membership categories.

Explanation. A prospective patient can confirm a credential without leaving the Directory or contacting anyone. That is the point of the badge.

3. **Agreement to This Policy.** Listing in the Directory requires agreement to this Policy. A member indicates agreement when they first submit a profile, and no profile is published before that agreement is recorded.
 - a. The Association records which version of this Policy the member agreed to and the date of agreement.
 - b. Members reconfirm their agreement at each annual renewal under V.B.1, and a listing not reconfirmed is unpublished until it is.
 - c. Where this Policy is amended, IX.2 governs. Where an amendment materially changes what personal information is published or how it is used, VII.2.b governs instead.

Explanation. Agreement and consent are different things and the Policy asks for both. This provision is the member's acceptance of the obligations set out here. The consent at VII.2 is the member's permission for the Association to publish their personal information, which is a separate question governed by data protection law.

4. **A Benefit of Membership.** Participation in the Directory is a benefit of membership, not a right. Access is extended to members in good standing on the terms set out in this Policy and may be suspended or withdrawn. Removal from the Directory does not affect membership status or any other benefit.
5. **Members Not Listed.** Members not currently practicing, or working solely in research, teaching, or administration, remain members in full standing but are not listed. A member may suspend a listing at any time and restore it later.

II. THE PROFILE

A. One Member, One Profile

1. **An Individual Listing.** A profile represents an individual member and no one else. It must not be used to promote a group practice, clinic, agency, or brand, and must not advertise the services of colleagues, employees, or associates.
2. **Written by or for the Member.** Each profile must carry a personal statement that accurately represents the member and the work they do. Members may reuse text they wrote themselves, including material from their own website or practice materials.

- a. The following are not permitted: text taken from another practitioner's profile or website; text used without the permission of whoever owns it; and templated or supplied copy that does not describe this member's own practice.

Explanation. The objection was never to reuse. It is to a profile that does not describe the person whose name is on it, which is what a prospective patient is relying on when they read it.

3. **Not Transferable.** A profile must not be transferred to another person or organization.
 - a. Where someone else maintains a profile on a member's behalf, the member authorizes this in writing to the Office of Membership and remains responsible for everything in it.
 - b. Login credentials must not be shared. Members notify the Office immediately of any unauthorized access.

B. Contact, Location, and Availability

1. **What a Listing Represents.** A listing represents that the member is personally available to receive inquiries from prospective patients, and that a visitor who makes contact will reach that member or someone authorized to act for them.
2. **Information Held by the Association.** Members provide the Association with a valid professional or business address, or another location sufficient to establish their professional base. This is held by the Association and is not necessarily published.
3. **What the Listing Displays.** A profile must state:
 - a. the member's location, displayed as a street address, a city, a region, or a service area at the member's election;
 - b. whether the member sees patients in person, remotely, or both;
 - c. the countries or regions in which the member is authorized to practice; and
 - d. whether the member is currently accepting new patients.

Explanation. A member who practices entirely remotely has a professional base without having premises a patient would ever visit, and the Directory should be able to list them accurately rather than requiring an address that would mean nothing to a visitor.

4. **Remote Practice.** Members practicing remotely state the jurisdictions in which they may lawfully provide services. Each member remains responsible for confirming the patient's location, and their own authority to practice there, at the time services are delivered.
5. **Inquiries.** Members supply an email address for inquiries, which is not published. Prospective patients make contact through a form on the listing, and the inquiry is forwarded to the member's email address.
 - a. Members keep that address current. An inquiry sent to an inactive address is simply lost.
6. **Where an Inquiry May Go.** An inquiry must reach the listed member or administrative personnel authorized to act on that member's behalf. It must not be sold, transferred, or redirected to another practitioner, clinic, or service without the prospective patient's knowledge and agreement.

Explanation. A practice manager opening the mail is ordinary professional life. Being routed to a different clinician without being told is the thing this provision exists to prevent.

III. ACCURACY, CREDENTIALS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS

A. Accuracy and Credentials

1. **Responsibility.** Members are responsible for the accuracy of everything in their profile.
2. **Required Statements.** A profile must state:
 - a. the member's name as they practice under it;
 - b. their qualifications, degrees, and professional credentials, accurately described; and
 - c. their license or registration, naming the issuing body and the jurisdiction. Where the profession is not licensed in their jurisdiction, the member states instead the qualification or professional membership under which they practice.
3. **Claims Not Permitted.** Members must not claim credentials they do not hold, exaggerate their training or experience, imply IAPST certification they have not earned, describe themselves as accredited or approved by the Association beyond what their membership category supports, or list qualifications in a way that suggests a regulatory standing they lack.
 - a. Nothing in a profile should suggest that the Association sponsors or endorses the member's practice.

4. Changes in Professional Standing. Members must notify the Office of Membership promptly where any of the following occurs:

- a. their license or registration lapses, is suspended, or is surrendered;
- b. a condition, limitation, or undertaking is imposed on their practice;
- c. a formal disciplinary finding is made against them by a regulator, licensing body, or professional association;
- d. an order restricts their work with a particular population; or
- e. professional indemnity cover required for their practice lapses or is withdrawn.

5. Effect on the Listing. Where a member may no longer lawfully practice, or may no longer practice psychosexual therapy, the listing is suspended. Where a condition or limitation still permits the member to practice, the Office determines whether the listing continues, continues with the profile amended to reflect the limitation, or is suspended.

- a. Where the Association learns that a member has materially misrepresented their credentials or practice, the listing is removed and the matter referred to the Ethics Committee.

Explanation. Not every restriction goes to whether a member should be listed. A limitation on the populations a member may work with is material to a prospective patient and can be stated; a suspended license is not something a profile can be written around.

B. Photographs

1. One Photograph. Each listing carries one photograph of the member. It must be:

- a. a recent photograph of the member themselves, and not a logo, illustration, avatar, stock image, AI-generated likeness, or photograph of another person;
- b. owned by the member or properly licensed to them;
- c. high resolution, a minimum of 800 by 800 pixels, square;
- d. professional in character — a headshot framed from roughly mid-chest up, well lit, with the face clearly visible, unobstructed, and looking toward the camera, against an uncluttered background. Full-length photographs, group photographs, and images cropped so tightly that only the face or head is shown are not accepted; and
- e. free of anything that could reasonably be read as offensive, sexually suggestive, or otherwise inappropriate for a public directory of health professionals.

Explanation. The last of these deserves a plain statement. This field concerns sexuality, and a photograph that would be unremarkable elsewhere can be misread in a directory of sex therapists — by prospective patients, and by people who have found the directory for other reasons.

The standard is what a clinical colleague in any of the Association's member countries would recognize as a professional photograph.

IV. PROFILE CONTENT

A. Writing for the Reader

1. **Audience.** Profiles should help a prospective patient decide whether to make contact. Members write for that reader in plain language: describing what issues they work with and what working with them is like, and explaining any clinical or theoretical terms rather than assuming the reader knows them.

Explanation. A directory profile is not a CV or a conference biography.

B. Required Fields

1. **Personal Statement.** What issues the member works with and how they practice, in plain language rather than clinical shorthand, written in their own words.
2. **Areas of Specialization.** Up to five, selected from the Association's list. A specialization is something the member was trained in or has substantial supervised experience with, not something they are willing to see. The Office of Membership may ask a member to substantiate a specialization at review, against the standard the Office applies to every member.

Explanation. The limit of five is deliberate. A directory in which everyone specializes in everything helps no one, least of all the person trying to find the right therapist. Members should choose the five that best describe the work they actually do rather than the five most likely to be searched for, and describe the wider range of their practice in the personal statement.

3. **Age Groups Served.** The age groups the member works with, selected from the Association's list.
4. **Treatment Formats.** Whether the member offers individual, couple, family, or group treatment.

Explanation. Age group and format are the two things a prospective patient most often needs before anything else, since a couple looking for couple work and a parent seeking help for an adolescent are both wasting their time on a profile that cannot tell them.

5. **Modalities and Approach.** The approaches the member uses in practice, explained so that a prospective patient understands what they mean. Named models are described rather than listed. Members may include only approaches they have been trained in, and must not describe an approach in a way that suggests a credential they do not hold.

6. **Languages.** The languages in which the member can conduct therapy, not those they speak conversationally. Where fluency differs across languages, the member says so.

Explanation. A prospective patient searching for a therapist in their own language needs to know whether the member can actually work clinically in it.

7. **Fees.** Fees and payment terms, where a member chooses to state them, must be accurate.

C. Further Information

1. **Professional Website.** Members are strongly encouraged to include the address of their own professional practice website.

Explanation. It is encouraged rather than required because a member employed by a hospital or clinic, a member early in practice, and a member working through a platform may each have no site of their own, and a required field they cannot fill helps nobody.

2. **Optional Fields.** Members may also state accessibility and available accommodations, whether a waiting list is operated, and insurance or reimbursement arrangements where these apply in their jurisdiction.

D. Content Not Permitted

1. **Prohibited Content.** Profiles must not include testimonials, patient reviews, or any material derived from work with an identifiable patient. Guarantees of outcome, claims of cure, and comparative claims about other practitioners are not permitted.
2. **Unlawful Services.** Profiles must not advertise or offer services that would be unlawful where those services are provided. This does not prohibit clinically appropriate reference to the populations a member works with, or to experiences and presenting concerns involving conduct that may be unlawful.
3. **Explicit Material.** Clinically relevant terminology is permitted. Graphic description, explicit imagery, and gratuitous sexual content are not.

Explanation. A member who works with people affected by offending, with sex workers, or with those harmed by image-based abuse must be able to say so plainly, and a prospective patient looking for exactly that help must be able to find it. Naming a population is not advertising an unlawful service.

The same holds for the vocabulary of the field. Terms such as BDSM, pornography, fetish interests, and sexual pain are clinical description rather than explicit content.

4. **Advertising.** The Directory is not advertising space. Profiles must not promote workshops, training programs, products, books, or services beyond the member's clinical practice, and must not include contests, promotions, or commercial arrangements of any kind. Links are limited to the member's own professional practice website.

5. **Terminology.** Profiles use patient rather than client, consistent with the Association’s terminology across its publications and forums. Where a member’s own regulatory context requires different language, they write to the Office of Membership.

E. AI-Assisted Writing

1. **Permitted With Review.** A profile may be drafted with the help of an AI tool provided the member has reviewed it, checked it for accuracy, and made it genuinely their own. A profile that reads as generated text — generic, interchangeable, describing a practice that could be anyone’s — is returned.

Explanation. The personal statement is the one place a prospective patient hears the member’s voice before they meet.

V. REVIEW, RENEWAL, AND REMOVAL

A. Review and Approval

1. **How Listings Are Managed.** Members manage their listing through their account on the member platform, where they create and edit their public-facing profile.
2. **Review Before Publication.** Every profile is reviewed by the Office of Membership before publication, and again after any substantive edit. A profile submitted or edited on the platform remains unpublished, or continues to display its last approved version, until review is complete.
 - a. Minor corrections, such as a corrected spelling or an updated website address, publish without re-review.
 - b. A change of location is not a minor correction. It is checked against the jurisdictions stated in the profile before publication, since a move may change where a member is authorized to practice and whether they can offer treatment in person.
3. **What Review Confirms.** Review confirms that the member is eligible and in good standing, that the stated credentials are supported, and that the profile and photograph meet this Policy. It is not an assessment of the member’s clinical competence and is not an endorsement of their practice.
4. **Time for Review.** The Office aims to complete review within ten working days of a complete submission.
5. **Outcomes.** A profile may be approved, returned for revision, or declined. Where a profile is returned, the Office identifies the specific provision at issue and what would resolve it, and the member may revise and resubmit without limit. Where a profile is declined, the Office states the reason in writing.

6. Review Is Against This Policy. Review is against the written provisions and nothing else. Where a submission raises a question this Policy does not clearly answer, the Office refers it to the Executive Officer rather than deciding on the spot.

- a. Where the answer interprets a provision that already exists, the Office may issue it as administrative guidance and publish it alongside this Policy.
- b. Where the answer would create a new obligation, it is an amendment to this Policy and is made under Part IX.

Explanation. This is most often a question about a photograph. Recording the answer is what stops the next member being surprised by it, and separating guidance from amendment is what stops the Policy growing new requirements nobody approved.

B. Renewal, Suspension, and Removal

- 1. Renewal.** Listings are confirmed annually alongside membership renewal. At renewal the member reconfirms their agreement to this Policy, that their credentials are current, that they remain in practice and available to receive inquiries, and that the profile remains accurate. A listing not confirmed at renewal is unpublished until it is.
- 2. Suspension and Removal.** The Office of Membership may suspend or remove a listing where a profile no longer meets this Policy, where credentials have lapsed or become restricted, where a member is no longer in good standing, or where the member is no longer in practice.
- 3. Interim Suspension.** Where credible information gives the Association reasonable grounds to believe that continued listing may materially mislead the public, create a significant risk of harm, or compromise the integrity of the Directory, the Office may suspend the listing while the matter is assessed or referred to the Ethics Committee.
 - a. The member receives written notice of the suspension and its basis, unless notice would create a material safeguarding or investigative risk.
 - b. An interim suspension is reviewed at intervals of not more than thirty days, and the member is told the outcome of each review.
 - c. An interim suspension is not an ethical finding and is not a determination that the member has done anything.

Explanation. A suspension imposed on suspicion is sometimes the right thing to do and is never a neutral act, since for many members the Directory is how patients find them. The threshold, the notice, and the review dates are what keep it from becoming an indefinite penalty for an allegation nobody ever tested.

- 4. Conduct Concerns.** Where a concern about a member's conduct arises, the Office refers the matter to the Ethics Committee, which proceeds separately. A decision about a listing is not itself a professional or ethical finding.

5. **Appeal.** A member may appeal the decline, suspension, or removal of a listing. Appeals are submitted in writing to the Office of Membership within thirty days after notice of the decision and are decided by the Executive Board on the record. No person who participated in the original decision takes part in the appeal.
 - a. The member is given the information the decision rested on, to the extent it can be shared without identifying a complainant or prejudicing an ethics matter.
 - b. The Board decides within sixty days of receiving the appeal, and gives its decision and reasons in writing.
 - c. An appeal against an interim suspension is expedited.
6. **Whether an Appeal Restores the Listing.** Where the suspension was not imposed because of a risk to the public, the listing is restored while the appeal is decided. Where the Office has reasonable grounds to believe that continued listing would create a significant risk of harm to the public or materially mislead them, the suspension stands until the appeal is decided, and the Office states in the written notice which of the two applies and why.

Explanation. A profile suspended over a disputed credential and a profile suspended over a safeguarding concern are not the same situation, and the member is entitled to know which one they are in.

C. Reporting a Concern About a Listing

1. **Who May Report.** Anyone may report a concern about a listing to the Office of Membership, using the route published with the Directory. Reports may be made about inaccurate credentials, impersonation, a contact route that does not work, a practitioner no longer in practice, misleading profile content, or misuse of the Directory.
2. **What the Route Is Not.** The reporting route is not an emergency service and is not monitored continuously. A person in immediate danger should contact emergency services in their country.
3. **What Happens to a Report.** The Office assesses the report and may correct the listing, ask the member to correct it, suspend the listing under V.B.3, or take no action. Making a report is not in itself a complaint under the IAPST Code of Ethics.
 - a. Where a report alleges conduct of the kind that would be referred under V.B.4, the Office refers it to the Ethics Committee rather than deciding whether an ethics matter exists.
 - b. Where a report concerns a profile the Office itself approved, the Office refers the matter to the Executive Officer.

Explanation. Most reports will be maintenance: a dead address, a member who has retired, a regulator named wrongly. Routing all of them to the Ethics Committee would

attach an ethics file to members who have done nothing, and would let any visitor start ethics proceedings through a web form. Referral upward is mandatory rather than discretionary where the allegation is serious, so that the Office is never the body deciding whether to look at a serious allegation.

VI. WHAT A LISTING MEANS

1. **What Is Represented.** The Directory states, for each listing, that the person is a member of the Association in the stated category, that they have declared their credentials and current practice, and, where badged, that they hold IAPST certification.
2. **What Is Not Represented.** Inclusion in the Directory is not a recommendation, a rating, or a guarantee of quality of care. The Association does not supervise members' practice.
 - a. Visitors are encouraged to verify a practitioner's licensure with the relevant regulatory body in that practitioner's jurisdiction, and to make their own judgment about fit.
3. **Not a Crisis Service.** The Directory is not a crisis service. A visitor in immediate danger should contact emergency services in their country.
4. **Use of Profile Content.** Members retain ownership of the text and photograph in their profile. Members grant the Association a non-exclusive permission to publish that content in the Directory and to use it in the Association's own materials operating or promoting the Directory.
 - a. The permission ends when the listing is withdrawn or removed. It continues to cover material already distributed, records the Association is required to keep, and copies held in backups until those expire.
 - b. Service providers acting for the Association may process profile content solely on the Association's behalf.
 - c. The Association does not license member profiles to third parties.
5. **Automated Collection.** Automated collection of listings, including scraping, crawling, and bulk extraction, is not permitted, and the Directory must not be reused to build a competing list or to solicit members commercially. This provision binds members. The same restriction is placed on visitors through the website terms of use, and is supported by technical controls.

Explanation. A member policy cannot by itself bind a stranger with a script, and the Association does not claim otherwise. What this provision does is settle the position between the Association and its members.

VII. PRIVACY AND DATA

1. **What Is Published.** A listing publishes the member's name, professional credentials, location as displayed, photograph, and everything else in the profile to the open internet. It is indexed by search engines, may be cached or copied by third parties beyond the Association's control, and may remain visible in those copies after removal from the Directory.

- a. Email addresses are the exception. They are held by the Association, used only to forward inquiries, and never displayed.

Explanation. Members should treat everything in a profile as permanently public and should not include information they would not want indexed against their name.

2. **Consent and Control.** Publication rests on the member's consent, given when the listing is created. Members may amend, suspend, or withdraw a listing at any time through the member platform, and withdrawal takes effect promptly.

- a. Members may request erasure of their Directory data, correction of inaccuracies, or a copy of what the Association holds, by writing to the Office of Membership.
 - b. Where an amendment to this Policy materially changes the personal information published, the purposes for which it is used, or the persons to whom it may be disclosed, the Association obtains renewed consent from the member before continuing to publish.

Explanation. Consent has to be specific and informed, and a member cannot give it in advance to a change nobody had drafted yet. Continued listing can carry an administrative amendment. It cannot carry a decision to publish something the member never agreed to publish.

3. **Location and Home Addresses.** Members practicing from home should consider carefully before publishing that address, and may display a city, region, or service area instead under II.B.3.a.

Explanation. Members working with sexual material have reasons to use that option that members in other specialties may not.

4. **Prospective Patients Who Make Contact.** Inquiries are submitted through the Directory and forwarded to the member. The inquirer's details are personal data about someone who may be about to become a patient, and members are responsible for handling them under the law that applies to them from the moment they arrive.

- a. The inquiry form collects only what is needed to make initial contact, limits the length of the message, and states above the message field that medical, sexual, diagnostic, and other sensitive clinical information should not be included.

- b. Inquiries are forwarded by email, which is not a secure channel. The Directory tells inquirers so before they write.
- c. The Association and its service providers process inquiry content only as necessary to transmit the inquiry, to maintain the security and operation of the service, to investigate delivery problems or misuse, and to comply with applicable law. Inquiry content is not used for marketing, profiling, or any unrelated purpose.
- d. Retention periods for inquiry content, and the service-provider arrangements that apply to it, are set out in the Directory privacy notice.

Explanation. A person writing to a sex therapist may disclose something about their health, their sexual behavior, or their orientation whatever the form tells them, and several of the regimes the Association's members practice under treat exactly those categories as requiring heightened protection. The form is therefore built to discourage the disclosure rather than only to warn against it.

- 5. **Retention of Listings.** Withdrawn or removed listings are unpublished immediately. The Association retains a record that a listing existed, and the reason for any removal, for as long as necessary for its governance and dispute purposes. It does not retain the profile content beyond that.
- 6. **Controller and Notice.** The Association is the controller of Directory data. What is collected, why, on what basis, how long it is kept, which service providers process it, and how to exercise rights are set out in the Directory privacy notice, which forms part of this Policy.
 - a. The Association's members and the Directory's visitors are spread across many jurisdictions, and the privacy notice states how the Association meets the requirements of each regime that applies to it.

VIII. NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

- 1. **No General Membership Directory.** The Association does not publish or make available a general list of its members.
- 2. **Purpose-Specific Directories and Registers.** The Association may maintain public directories or verification registers for defined professional purposes, including the Therapist Directory, the Registered Supervisor Directory, certification verification, accredited programs, and approved continuing education providers. Inclusion in any such resource is governed by the policy applicable to it.
- 3. **No Member Access for Solicitation.** Members may not obtain membership information for personal, commercial, recruitment, or solicitation purposes. This does not prevent authorized officers, employees, contractors, or committee members from accessing information necessary to perform their assigned duties.

4. **No Unauthorized Disclosure.** The Association does not sell, exchange, or disclose membership information to third parties, except with the member's authorization, through service providers acting for the Association, or where disclosure is required for legal, regulatory, governance, or safeguarding purposes.
5. **Aggregate Information.** Nothing in this Part prevents the Association from publishing anonymized or aggregated information about its membership, provided individual members cannot reasonably be identified.

Explanation. The distinction this Part draws is between a list of who belongs to the Association and a register maintained so that somebody can check a specific professional fact. The first is not published. The second is, for defined purposes, and each register carries its own policy.

IX. AMENDMENT AND STATUS

1. **Amendment.** This Policy may be amended by the Executive Board. The current version is published on the Association's website, and the version and revision date appear on the cover.
2. **Notice.** Members are notified of a substantive amendment not fewer than thirty days before it takes effect. Continued listing after that date constitutes acceptance of the amended Policy, except where VII.2.b applies.
3. **Administrative Guidance.** Guidance issued under V.A.6.a interprets this Policy and does not amend it. Where guidance and this Policy differ, this Policy governs.
4. **Relationship to the Code of Ethics.** Where this Policy differs from the IAPST Code of Ethics, the Code governs.