

Code of Ethical Standards and Guidelines

The Institute of Vedic Astrology of Trinidad & Tobago

PREAMBLE

The Institute of Vedic astrology of Trinidad & Tobago (IVATT) is an educational and professional organization whose members are dedicated to the highest quality in Vedic astrology - Jyotish. Institute members promote data accuracy, educational services, counseling standards, and ongoing research in Vedic astrology - Jyotish across a variety of disciplines.

Astrologers work to develop a valid and reliable body of knowledge based on research, both quantitative and qualitative. They may apply that knowledge to human understanding in a variety of contexts: consultant, counselor, administrator, psychotherapist, and educator. These Ethical Standards and Guidelines have as their primary goal the welfare and protection of individuals and groups with whom astrologers work as well as the professional astrologer and the professional astrological community.

Astrologers' moral standards and conduct are personal matters to the same degree as is true for any other person, except as astrologers' conduct may compromise their professional responsibilities or reduce the public's trust in Vedic astrology - Jyotish and astrologers. It is the individual responsibility of each astrologer to aspire to the highest possible standard of conduct.

These Ethical Standards and Guidelines enable IVATT to clarify the nature of the ethical responsibilities held in common by its members. All members of IVATT adhere to the Ethical Standards and Guidelines, which serve as a basis for mediating ethical complaints.

As there are several sub-disciplines in Vedic astrology - Jyotish, a comprehensive Ethical Standards and Guidelines must endeavor to cover a variety of different situations. What is ethically relevant to a Horary or financial astrologer may not apply to a consulting astrologer whose client is struggling with a relationship problem. These guidelines, therefore, strive to recognize the specific ethical standards that apply in the different sub-disciplines of Vedic astrology - Jyotish. It also covers activities outside the field

of consulting, such as interactions with the public, teaching, supervision, and research. We recognize that the development of standards is an ongoing process and that this code is a living document subject to revisions and updates as needed.

Vedic astrology - Jyotish has a variety of theoretical perspectives and a wide range of appropriate research methods. Astrologers should warrant their research conclusions consistent with the standards of their own theoretical and methodological perspectives. They should keep themselves well informed in both their own and competing paradigms where those are relevant to their research, and they should continually evaluate the criteria of adequacy by which research is judged.

These Ethical Standards and Guidelines cannot expressly cover every conceivable situation that may occur. The absence of a specific standard or guideline against a particular kind of conduct does not mean that such conduct is ethical. Accordingly, while the specific wording of these standards is important, those utilizing or interpreting these Ethical Standards and Guidelines should always take the spirit and intent of the principles into consideration.

Adherence to a dynamic set of ethical standards requires a personal commitment to a life-long effort to act ethically; to encourage ethical behavior by one's colleagues; and to consult with others, as needed, concerning ethical problems.

The primary intent of these Ethical Standards and Guidelines is to educate astrologers about the types of ethical practices that will improve client experiences, relationships among colleagues and the acceptance of our field. It is our expectation that these guidelines will inspire us to higher standards. If a member of our community falls short of our minimum standards, an ethics committee will work to mediate misunderstandings and disputes.

Section A: Professional Responsibility

A.1. DEFINITION

A professional astrologer provides astrological services as a source of livelihood or as a career. An

astrologer is someone who offers a perspective or opinion based on a thorough analysis of astrological charts, including horoscopes for individuals, couples, organizations, pets and mundane events, and may use transits, progressions and other related methods in the process. Professional astrologers strive to use the most accurate birth data available.

A.2. FOUNDATIONAL STANDARDS

a. Responsibility to Learn Ethical Standards and Guidelines.

Astrologers have a responsibility to read, understand, and follow the Ethical Standards and Guidelines. Ignorance of professional guidelines is not an acceptable defense against a charge of unethical conduct.

b. Primary Responsibility

The prime directive that supersedes all other ethics is *do no harm*. Astrologers act at all times in the client's best interest.

c. Enhance Image of the Profession

Astrologers behave in a manner that does not damage the status of the profession. They present an image of professionalism when representing Vedic astrology - Jyotish.

A.3. PERSONAL NEEDS AND VALUES

a. Personal Needs

Astrologers are aware of the intimacy and responsibilities inherent in the consulting relationship, maintain respect for clients, and avoid actions that seek to meet their personal needs at the expense of clients.

b. Personal Values

Astrologers recognize their own values, attitudes or beliefs, realize that we live in a diverse society, and avoid imposing their values on clients.

A.4. RESPECTING DIVERSITY

a. Nondiscrimination

Astrologers do not discriminate against clients, students, or supervisees in a manner that has a negative impact based on their age, color, culture, disability, ethnic group, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, or socioeconomic status, or for any other reason.

b. Respecting Differences

Astrologers will actively attempt to understand the diverse cultural backgrounds of the clients with whom they work. This includes, but is not limited to, learning how the astrologer's own cultural/ethnic/racial identity impacts his/her values and beliefs about the consulting process.

A.5. PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

a. Boundaries of Competence

Astrologers practice only within the boundaries of their competence, based not only upon their formal education and training, but also upon their appropriate professional experience including teaching, research, consulting and publishing. Astrologers consistently strive to achieve excellence in their work.

b. New Specialty Areas of Practice

Astrologers practice in specialty areas new to them only after appropriate education and training. While developing skills in new specialty areas, astrologers take steps to ensure the competence of their work.

c. Continuing Education

Astrologers recognize the need for continuing education. This may include attending conferences, taking courses and studying astrological texts. Astrologers strive to maintain competence in the skills they use and are open to new procedures.

d. Limitation or Impairment

Astrologers refrain from rendering professional services when their physical, mental, or emotional problems are likely to harm a client or others. They are alert to signs of limitation or impairment, seek assistance for problems, and, if necessary, limit, suspend, or terminate their professional responsibilities.

A.6. ADVERTISING AND SOLICITING CLIENTS

a. Definition

Advertising entails, but is not limited to, all paid and unpaid statements in media, brochures, business cards, direct mail promotions, directory listings, resumes, and other printed matter. Advertising also includes statements made in oral presentations such as lectures and classes, as well as comments for use in electronic media such as television, radio, and the Internet.

b. Accurate Advertising

It is unethical for astrologers to make false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive claims that are designed to induce the rendering of professional services. A statement may be misleading or deceptive if it fails to disclose material facts or is intended or is likely to create false or unjustified expectations of favorable results.

c. Statements by Others/Media

Astrologers make reasonable efforts to ensure that statements made by others/media about them or the profession of Vedic astrology - Jyotish is accurate.

d. Products and Training Advertisements

Astrologers who develop products related to their profession or conduct workshops or training events ensure that the advertisements concerning these products or events are accurate and disclose adequate information for consumers to make informed choices.

Section A.6.e. Under discussion. See Addendum.

e. Promoting to Those Served

f. Professional Institute Involvement

Astrologers strive to actively participate in local, state, or national Institutes that foster the development and improvement of Vedic astrology - Jyotish.

A.7.CREDENTIALS

a. Credentials Claimed

Astrologers claim or imply only professional credentials possessed and are responsible for correcting any known misrepresentations of their credentials by others. Professional credentials include certification from a recognized Vedic astrology - Jyotish program, graduate degrees in Vedic astrology - Jyotish, philosophy, religion, counseling, psychology or closely related fields, government issued certifications or licenses, or any other credential that might indicate to the public specialized knowledge in a field related to their astrological work.

b. Credential Guidelines

Astrologers follow the guidelines for use of credentials that have been established by the institutions that issue the credentials.

Section A.7.c Under discussion. See Addendum.

c. Doctoral Degrees from Other Fields

A.8.FEES AND BARTERING

a. Establishing Fees

Astrologers clearly explain to clients, prior to entering the consultation, all financial arrangements and options related to the scheduled consultation.

b. Bartering

Astrologers may accept goods or services in return for astrological services, provided that the relationship is not exploitative and if the astrologer and the client make a clear agreement about their bartering arrangement.

c. Referral Fees

Astrologers do not accept referral fees because of potential conflict of interest.

d. Pro Bono Service

Astrologers strive to contribute to society by devoting a portion of their professional activity to services for which there is little or no financial return (pro bono).

A.9. PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY

a. Charts of Public Figures

Interpretations of the charts of public figures are confined to areas that are considered public domain due to specific achievements or notoriety as revealed in interviews, published documents, or recorded observations. When interpreting charts of public figures, astrologers refrain from making slanderous comments.

b. Mundane, Economic or Political Predictions

When interpreting charts that refer to large groups of people, whether financial, social, political, or geophysical, astrologers do not make dire predictions of imminent disaster that are likely to lead to unreasonable fears in the public. Negative predictions are tempered with disclaimers, *such as* (a) Vedic astrology - Jyotish is not an exact science, (b) astrological variables can manifest in differing events of similar meaning, and (c) Vedic astrology - Jyotish cannot predict with absolute certainty the outcome of future astronomical events.

c. Sexual Harassment

Astrologers do not engage in sexual harassment, which is defined as sexual solicitation, physical advances, or verbal or nonverbal conduct that is sexual in nature, that occurs in connection with professional activities or roles, and that either: (1) is unwelcome, (2) is offensive, or (3) is sufficiently severe or intense to be perceived as harassment to a reasonable person in the context. Sexual harassment can consist of a single intense or severe act or multiple persistent or pervasive acts.

d. Media Presentations

When astrologers provide advice or comment by means of public lectures, demonstrations, radio or television programs, prerecorded tapes, printed articles, computer reports, mailed material, or other media, they take reasonable precautions to ensure that (1) the statements are based on appropriate professional astrological literature and practice; (2) the statements are otherwise consistent with ethical behavior; (3) they do not represent themselves as spokespersons for an organization without the proper authorization from that organization; and (4) the recipient of the information is not encouraged to infer that a professional counseling relationship has been established.

e. Unreasonable Claims

Astrologers do not exploit the anxieties and gullibility of the public by inducing people to purchase astrological services on the basis of unreasonable futuristic claims, such as the promise of love, happiness, or prosperity. Neither do astrologers induce people to purchase services on the premise of protecting them from negative future events that the astrologer claims to see.

Section A.10 Under discussion. See Addendum.

A.10.SEXUAL INTIMACIES WITH CLIENTS

A.11.RESPONSIBILITY TO OTHER PROFESSIONALS

a. Different Approaches

Astrologers are respectful of approaches to professional Vedic astrology - Jyotish that differ from their own. Astrologers know and take into account the traditions and practices of other professional groups with whom they work.

b. Personal Public Statements

When making personal statements in a public context, astrologers clarify that they are speaking from their personal perspective and that they are not speaking on behalf of all astrologers or the profession.

c. Personal Disputes

Astrologers should refrain from making statements, either orally or in writing, that might be construed as disparaging or undermining to another astrologer's reputation or expertise. Any comments made by one astrologer that refer to another should *first* be clearly explained as a difference in ideas, preferred techniques, viewpoints, etc., and *not* as a personal attack on any individual. This same professional courtesy should be extended to the discussion of policies or practices of any astrological organization, both local and national.

Section B: Confidentiality

B.1. RIGHT TO PRIVACY

a. Respect for Privacy

Astrologers respect their client's right to privacy and avoid unwarranted disclosures of confidential information.

b. Multiple Relationships

When an astrologer agrees to provide consulting services for someone at the request of a third party, the astrologer clarifies that confidentiality will be maintained with respect to both parties.

c. Client Waiver

The client or their legally recognized representative may waive the right to privacy.

d. Exceptions

The general requirement that astrologers keep information confidential does not apply when disclosure is required to prevent clear and imminent danger to the client or others. Astrologers consult with other professionals, such as lawyers and state licensed medical professionals, when in doubt as to the validity of an exception.

e. Supervision

If work with a client will involve a continued review by a supervisor, the client will be informed of the supervisor's existence. Astrologers obtain the cli-

ent's permission before presenting the case, and assure clients that names and other identifying information that is not essential to the supervisory process will be withheld.

f. Group Work

In group work, astrologers clearly define confidentiality and its parameters for the specific group being entered, explain its importance, and discuss the difficulties related to confidentiality involved in group work. The fact that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed is clearly communicated to group members.

g. Minor Clients

When interpreting charts of individuals who are minors and who are unable to give voluntary, informed consent, parents or guardians may be included in the consulting process as appropriate.

h. Confidentiality of Records

Astrologers exercise due diligence regarding the safety and confidentiality of any records they create, maintain, or transfer whether the records are written, taped, computerized, or stored in any other medium.

i. Permission to Record or Observe

Astrologers obtain permission from clients before electronically recording or having others observe a session. If a session is recorded, clients are informed of the purpose of the recording, e.g., if tapes are to be archived and/or sold commercially. If recorded sessions are later to be put to any other purpose, specific permission is first obtained from those clients.

B.2. THIRD PARTY HOROSCOPES

a. Interpretation of a Third Party's Horoscope

If a client wants an astrologer to extensively interpret the chart of an adult third party (that is, the focus of session will not be about the client's specific relationship to that third party), the astrologer requires the client to obtain the third party's permission.

b. Failure to Obtain Permission

If the primary client does not obtain permission from the third party, astrologers may use the third party's birth data to better understand the client's re-

lationship with this third party, but avoid direct interpretation of third party horoscopes to the client.

c. Synastry, Composite and Davison Charts

For purposes of Synastry or Composite relationship charts, astrologers may utilize the birth data of third parties without their permission. However, astrologers avoid direct interpretation of third party horoscopes to the client.

B.3. RESEARCH AND TRAINING

a. Data Disguise

Use of data derived from counseling relationships for purposes of training, research, or publication is disguised to ensure the anonymity of the individuals involved. Such disguises may include, but are not limited to, false names, gender, race, career, and other indicators that can be altered without losing the essential significance of the data.

b. Agreement for Identification

Identification of a client in a presentation or publication is permissible only when the client has reviewed the material and has agreed to its presentation or publication.

Section D: Consulting Vedic astrology - Jyotish

D.1. DEFINITION

An astrological consultant is one whose services include discussion of an astrological chart in order to (1) help individuals recognize their strengths and talents, (2) provide insight into life issues, (3) elucidate patterns of growth and development, (4) confirm self-knowledge, (5) suggest the life purpose, (6) reveal periods of challenge and opportunity, (7) explore the meaning of a particular experience or phase of life, or (8) provide guidance as to timing or decisions with regard to a particular course of action.

D.2. COMPETENCE IN CONSULTING

Section D.2.a. Under discussion. See Addendum.

a. Boundaries of Competence

D.3. DISCLOSURE TO CLIENTS

a. Fees and Appointments

When making appointments, astrologers clearly inform clients of the fee, duration, and locale of the session.

b. Nature of Services

When a consultation is initiated, astrologers ascertain the needs and goals of the client and inform the client of purposes, goals, procedures, benefits and limitations of services.

c. Non-Astrological Techniques & Practices

Astrologers who use other techniques in their practices (such as Tarot, Numerology, or psychic abilities) distinguish these sources of information from astrological sources and techniques.

d. Accurate Information

Astrologers are mindful of the limitations of predictive accuracy and avoid the use of universal qualifiers such as *every, always, never, for certain, any, no one*, or other such blanket statements that imply definite, concrete outcomes. Clients are informed that it is impossible for Vedic astrology - Jyotish to be absolutely certain about personality profiles or future events.

e. Use of Indeterminate Qualifiers

Astrologers are encouraged to utilize terms that are non-absolute and non-fatalistic, such as *may, could, might, perhaps, and possibly*, when rendering a personality profile or a forecast of future events, with efforts to ground these statements whenever possible in research studies. Special efforts are made to avoid unwarranted certainty and dogmatic interpretations of chart variables.

f. Chart Meanings Vary

Astrologers ensure that clients understand that meanings of chart variables are multidimensional, operate on a continuum, and that the client's expression of his/her chart reflects his/her level of maturity and degree of self-actualization.

g. Reincarnational Vedic astrology - Jyotish

Astrologers who interpret chart symbolism in terms of karma and reincarnation convey respect for their clients' right to choose other ways of looking at

life. Faced with a client who is uncomfortable with reincarnation, the astrologer does not criticize or proselytize. He or she either disqualifies himself or herself from working with that client, or presents alternative perspectives, such as genetic patterning or family mythology.

When using reincarnational imagery, astrologers emphasize to their clients that this kind of information operates in accord with the same principles that underlie the rest of ethical astrological practice, i.e., the symbols are not literal or one-dimensional; they are subject to multiple interpretations, and that the astrologer is attempting to invoke an understanding of psychological dynamics rather than concrete biographical facts from prior lifetimes. Astrologers acknowledge that prior-life information is, in and of itself, *a matter of personal belief and therefore difficult to evaluate directly*. They encourage their clients to test the reincarnational information by the same standard they would use to test any other form of astrological counsel: an independent consideration of its relevance to the circumstances of the present life. Always, astrologers practicing this kind of Vedic astrology - Jyotish strive to be sensitive to its unique risks in terms of creating destructive guilt or ego inflation in the client.

D.4. CLIENT WELFARE

a. Positive Growth and Development

Astrologers encourage client growth and development in ways that foster the clients' autonomy, interest, and welfare. Astrologers avoid fostering dependent relationships.

b. Promoting Independence

Astrologers do not tell clients what they should do with respect to choices in relationships, career, relocations, sex, finances, or any other matter. While the astrologer may clarify matters as revealed in the chart, provide insight into the nature of conflicts, empathize with the client's dilemma, or recommend a course of action, the astrologer respects and supports the client's capacity for decision-making.

D.5. PREDICTIVE WORK

a. Continuum of Meanings

The astrologer provides a reasonable range of meanings and assures the client that actual event outcomes may vary along a continuum of possibilities.

b. Claims of Infallibility

No astrologer will claim to be infallible in the prediction of particular events.

c. Dire Warnings

Astrologers do not make predictions that are likely to lead to unreasonable fears in the client. Predictions are not made of calamitous events such as divorce, accidents, illness, death, financial ruin, or other negative outcomes without balancing the interpretation with more positive, alternative and equally probable meanings. Efforts are made to assure the client that while some periods may be more challenging than others, and may or may not entail negative outcomes, difficulties can be conducive of psychological growth and development.

Section D.6. Under discussion. See Addendum

D.6. CLIENTS SERVED BY OTHERS

D.7. MULTIPLE CLIENTS

When astrologers agree to separately consult with two or more persons who have a relationship, astrologers use their discretion and ensure confidentiality. If it becomes apparent that astrologers may be called upon to perform potentially conflicting roles, they clarify, adjust, or withdraw from roles appropriately.

D.8. REFERRAL

a. Referrals to Other Astrologers

When astrological issues arise that are beyond the scope of the astrologer's training and practice, e.g., a medical, financial, relocation, or horary question, the astrologer refers clients to other professionals who are trained in such matters.

b. Referrals to Non-astrological Professionals

If astrologers are unable to be of professional assistance to clients, they avoid entering or immediately terminate a consulting relationship. Astrologers are knowledgeable about referral resources and suggest appropriate alternatives, such as a licensed psychotherapist, psychiatrist, medical doctor, or 12-step program.

Section F: Research and Publication

Vedic astrology - Jyotish research covers the gamut from casual studies and anecdotal evidence to replicated statistical research. The essence of ethics in Vedic astrology - Jyotish research is the fair and accurate reporting of results. There are some special issues involved in astrological research, but on the whole the standard rules of good scientific research apply.

F.1. REPORTING RESULTS

a. Information Affecting Outcome

When reporting research results, researchers explicitly mention all variables and conditions known to the investigator that may have affected the outcome of the study or the interpretation of data.

b. Data Source Designation

Researchers are required to report the source of their data – both who collected it and where the birth time for each birth record originated. The designation of who collected the data is properly called a citation e.g. “from the Rodden”. The designation of the origin of the birth data is properly called “the data source.” Researchers are required to use a source rating system similar to the Rodden rating system to determine the reliability of the data.

c. Accurate Results

Researchers plan, conduct, and report research accurately and in a manner that minimizes the possibility that results will be misleading. They provide thorough discussions of the limitations of their data and offer alternative hypotheses. Researchers do not engage in fraudulent research, distort data, or deliberately bias their results.

d. Obligation to Report Unfavorable Results

Researchers communicate to other astrologers the results of any research judged to be of professional value. Good science requires that you report your results whether you got the answer you expected or not. Both positive and negative results help build the body of knowledge in a field. Results that reflect unfavorably on institutions, programs, services, prevailing opinions, or vested interests are not withheld.

e. Identity of Subjects

Researchers engaged in a research project take due care to disguise the identity of respective subjects in the absence of specific written authorization from

the subjects to do otherwise. Research information about public figures, derived from public domain, does not have to be disguised.

f. Replication Studies

Researchers are obligated to make available sufficient original research data to qualified professionals who may wish to replicate the study or do a meta-study. Secondary researchers should respect and maintain the anonymity established by primary researchers.

g. Statistical analysis

Researchers refrain from making definitive statements about the abundance or lack of astrological factors in a sample unless they have built a proper control group. There are many surprising astronomical irregularities (like Mars is four times more likely to conjunct the Sun than oppose it) that could easily result in false astrological conclusions if results are not compared to a control group. When discussing the results of informal research, researchers use qualifying words such as, may, could, appears to, suggests or seems to.

Researchers recognize the difference between statistical significance and predictive significance when analyzing and discussing the results of astrological studies. Statistical significance can come from a small difference in the sample, which isn't useful in making predictions about individuals.

F.2. PUBLICATION

a. Intellectual Property

The data and results of a research study are the intellectual property of the researchers who designed and conducted the study, unless specific contractual arrangements have been made with respect to either or both the data and results. For intellectual honesty, all funding sources and restrictions should be mentioned in the research report.

b. Recognition of Others

When conducting and reporting research, or when presenting a theory, researchers are familiar with and give recognition to previous work on the topic, observe copyright laws, and give full credit to those to whom credit is due. Specifically:

- ◆ If you got an idea from someone else, acknowledge the source of the idea.

- ◆ If you quote someone, quote them accurately and don't quote fragments out of context in a way that distorts the meaning of the source text.
- ◆ If you did not do all the work on a project yourself, make sure everyone who contributed is properly credited in the final report about the work.

c. Duplicate Submission

Astrologers submit manuscripts or articles for consideration to only one journal/magazine at a time, unless the publisher is informed. Manuscripts or articles that are published in whole or in substantial part in another journal/magazine are not submitted for publication without acknowledgment and permission from the previous publication.

d. Professional Review

Astrologers who review material submitted for publication, research, or other scholarly purposes respect the confidentiality and proprietary rights of those who submitted it. The work should not be discussed until published unless one is given explicit permission otherwise. Evaluation of the work should be based entirely on the content of the research, not on the researcher's school of Vedic astrology - Jyotish. Criticisms should be made respectfully and concretely.

e. Software Programs

Astrologers do not knowingly replicate codes or programs from other astrological software publishers.

Section G: Financial Vedic astrology - Jyotish

G.1. DEFINITION

Astrologers, who, for profit or compensation, utilize Vedic astrology - Jyotish, to advise or present an opinion on stocks, bonds, mutual funds, commodity futures contracts, or options are financial astrologers. Additionally this category would include Astrologers who present an opinion on any matters pertaining to financial planning and portfolio structuring or re-structuring.

a. Proper Credentials

Financial astrologers demonstrate an understanding, knowledge and proficiency of market movements through extended personal study, and through the correct use of astrological software spe-

cifically designed for this purpose. Financial astrologers who, directly or indirectly, make recommendations as to the value or advisability of buying or selling stocks, bonds, futures contracts, or commodity or stock options, or who make recommendations on the advisability of investing or trading in any other financial vehicles, are required to register with the appropriate regulatory agencies as required by law in their country of residence.

In the United States, for example, one must be registered as a Commodity Trading Advisor (CTA) in order to give specific advice, for compensation, on buying or selling (i.e. trading) commodity futures contracts or options. Or one must be registered as an Investment Advisor with the Security Exchange Commission (SEC) if giving specific advice, for compensation, on buying or selling specific stocks. Likewise, one must be registered with other appropriate agencies to give advice, for compensation, on financial planning or portfolio structuring, in the United States. It is up to the Financial Astrologer to know and to abide by those laws pertaining to his/her country of residence on these matters.

b. Exams

Financial Astrologers who give specific investment and/or trading recommendations in any financial markets must take and pass all regulatory exams that pertain to giving investment and trading advice from appropriate regulatory agencies as required by law in one's country of residence.

c. Opinions versus Recommendations

The financial astrologer who is not licensed by the proper securities regulatory agencies of his/her country must be very clear in stating that the advice given is an opinion only, and not a recommendation, to buy or sell a particular financial instrument being discussed.

G.2. ADVERTISING

a. Factually True Statements

All statements made by financial astrologers in promotional material are factually true. Astrologers are able to document all claims and do not utilize promotional material that is likely to deceive or mislead the reader. Likewise, financial astrologers do not omit facts if the omission would make the promotional material deceptive or misleading.

b. Profit and Loss

An equally prominent statement of the risk of loss must accompany statements of the possibility of profit.

c. Hypothetical Results

Any reference to hypothetical results that could have been achieved in the past by employing some particular trading system (e.g. an astrological software program) must be accompanied by a disclaimer that any past hypothetical results are no guarantee of future performance.

d. Actual Performance

Statements about past performance must be accurately portrayed.

e. Opinion Statements

Statements of opinion must be identified as such, and must have a reasonable basis in fact. For example, Financial Astrologers cannot claim that, "your investments will earn at a minimum annual rate of 20%." Any such concrete claims made must be documented with empirical evidence. However, quotes by others regarding the Financial Astrologer that include such positive statements, are permissible to use in advertising, providing these statements are actual, were unsolicited by the Financial Astrologer and permission in writing to use such quotes was obtained.

f. Truth in Advertising

Financial astrologers do not make inflated claims when advertising their services or software. Claims of having "the best software program" or that one *is* "the best financial astrologer" are in violation of United States Federal regulations, and may violate regulations of other countries as well. Such statements cannot be objectively substantiated and should therefore be avoided.

G.3. GIVING FINANCIAL ADVICE

a. Using Absolute Terminology

Financial astrologers do not make astrological forecasts about future market performance involving absolute and inevitable terms, such as every, always, never, for certain, any, no one, or other such blanket statements that imply definite, concrete outcomes. Clients are informed that it is impossible for Vedic astrology - Jyotish to be absolute about future events,

such as what the market will do on any given date or time period. Accordingly, financial astrologers utilize terms that are open-ended and non-absolute, such as may, could, might, perhaps, and possibly, with efforts to ground these statements whenever possible in research studies.

b. Scope of Practice

Financial astrologers represent themselves accurately in terms of their qualifications and training in financial matters. If they lack the appropriate training or qualifications, they refer their clients to someone who does have the experience.

G. 4. CLIENT SUITABILITY

Financial Astrologers do not give specific investment or trading advice to a client without taking into account the client's suitability for making such investments or trades. The client's astrological chart, age, investment experience, trading experience, financial goals and objectives, annual income, net worth, and available investment funds must all be considered before imparting any specific trade or investment advice on an individual basis. All relevant factors considered in making specific recommendations are disclosed to clients.

Section H: Business Vedic astrology - Jyotish

H.1. DEFINITION

Astrologers who advise businesses in matters of hiring, personnel, administration, expansion, downsizing, financial planning, cycles of earning, incorporation dates, trade dates, starting dates, and other important dates are business astrologers.

H.2. ADVERTISING

a. Factually True Statements

All statements made by business astrologers in promotional material are factually true and can or have been documented.

b. Inflated Claims

Business astrologers do not make unreasonable or inflated claims as to how their services can increase company profits.

H.3. GIVING BUSINESS ADVICE

a. Scope of Practice

Business astrologers represent themselves accurately in terms of their qualifications and training in business matters. They do not present themselves as experts or authorities in areas where they lack the appropriate training and qualifications.

b. Nature of Services

When a business consultation is initiated, astrologers inform clients of the purposes, goals, techniques, procedures, limitations, potential risks and benefits of services to be performed.

It is the responsibility of the astrologer to inform the company of the necessity of accurate data in order to give an accurate opinion.

c. Profit and Loss

When advising businesses in matters that may affect company profits, an equally prominent statement of the risk of loss must accompany any statements of the possibility of profit.

d. Personnel Decisions

In working with the charts of employees for purposes of personnel decisions, business astrologers require the employer to get accurate birth data and written permission from employees. Employers are advised that employees may perceive requests for birth data as coercive; thus, employers should inform employees that (1) disclosure of birth data is voluntary, and (2) what their intention is in using the birth data. The astrologer's statements about employees are limited to matters that pertain to their potential role within the company.

Section H.3.e. Under discussion. See Addendum.

e. Business Partnerships

f. Universal Qualifiers

When making business forecasts astrologers do not use universal qualifiers such as *every, always, never, for certain, any, no one*, or other such blanket statements that imply definite, concrete outcomes. Clients are informed that it is impossible for Vedic astrology - Jyotish to be absolute about future events, such as how an employee will behave or what a business will do. Accordingly, business astrologers utilize terms that are open ended and indeterminate, such as *may, could, might, perhaps, and possibly*.

Section I: Horary & Electional Vedic astrology - Jyotish

I.1. DEFINITION

Astrologers who answer questions by casting horoscopes for the moment the question is asked are horary astrologers. Horary astrologers answer questions pertaining to business dealings, purchases, lost objects, job related decisions, relationships, and other matters that permit concrete, precise answers to specific questions.

Astrologers who assist clients in choosing or “electing” a specific date/time for an event—e.g., a wedding, surgery, incorporation, an inauguration, or the signing of a contract—are electional astrologers. Electional astrologers inform clients that the elected time indicates the best potential moment for initiating an act or event but is not a guarantee of a successful end result.

I.2. BUSINESS PRACTICES

a. Nature and Scope of Services

When a consultation is initiated, astrologers inform clients of the purposes, goals, techniques, procedures, limitations, potential risks and benefits of services to be performed. For example, a horary client needs to know that the same question cannot be asked twice.

For electional work, the client is told that an electional chart cannot produce outcomes that are radically inconsistent with the natal chart, or the transits, progressions and directions in effect at the time the work is done. Clients are informed that electional Vedic astrology - Jyotish is not an exact science and that the answers that astrologers provide are not infallible, and that use of electional Vedic astrology - Jyotish cannot prevent negative consequences from affecting the life of the client. In no instance should electional Vedic astrology - Jyotish be used in support of immoral activity, such as the best time to attempt a burglary, or in any effort to deliberately harm another person.

I.3. QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND ADVICE

a. Accepting Questions

Horary astrologers are aware that the answers they give to questions *may* influence the client’s sub-

sequent expectations, thinking, and behavior. Accordingly, they accept responsibility that their answers to questions may influence the client’s decisions, which could lead to negative as well as positive outcomes.

b. Refusing Questions

Horary astrologers do not accept questions that they are unable or unwilling to answer. Once a question is accepted, they are aware that their subsequent refusal to answer the question may itself be misconstrued as an answer. If they envision an answer that they cannot bring themselves to give, they do not accept the question.

c. Questions About Death

Horary astrologers are extra cautious about questions that pertain to life and death, and are aware that the answers they provide may have an affect on the outcome in question. If at all possible, such questions are not accepted.

d. Clarifying Questions

Astrologers do not attempt to answer questions or offer advice if there is any confusion as to what the astrologer is being asked to answer or elect. If the client asks multiple questions that lack the necessary specificity for a good delineation, the horary astrologer does not attempt to answer such questions. Horary astrologers help their clients phrase questions in a manner that permits an intelligible answer.

e. Avoid “ever” Questions

Horary astrologers avoid answering questions that involve absolute certainties such as “Will I ever marry again?” or, “Will I ever become president of my company?” They are aware that their answers can influence client expectations and that expectations can operate as self-fulfilling prophesies. Accordingly, the client is assisted in rewording the question in a more provisional form that involves time periods that are not final, e.g., “will I marry again in the next three years?”

f. Third Party Questions

Horary astrologers avoid questions that involve the lives of third parties, i.e., someone other than the client, because there is a probable attenuation of accuracy in answering such questions. Horary astrologers are also aware that answers to third-party questions may entail an undue interference in the life of the third party.

Section J: Resolving Ethical Issues

Formal complaints regarding violations of this IVATT ethics code will be deliberated by an IVATT Ethics Committee composed of five members.

The first aim of the Committee is toward mediation and conflict resolution. Failing that, the Committee is empowered to investigate *complaints* against ethical practices brought before the committee and to enforce a series of remedies, up to and including revocation of IVATT CAP status and IVATT membership. In all ways, the IVATT Ethics Committee strives to be fair, representative, and fundamentally oriented toward healing, education and reconciliation rather than toward punishment.

J.1. KNOWLEDGE OF STANDARDS

Astrologers are expected to be familiar with these Ethical Standards and Guidelines. Lack of knowledge or misunderstanding of an ethical responsibility is not a defense against a charge of unethical conduct.

J.2. SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS

a. Ethical Behavior Expected

Astrologers expect professional associates to adhere to the Ethical Standards and Guidelines. When astrologers possess reasonable cause that raises doubts as to whether an astrologer is acting in an ethical manner, they seek appropriate remedy.

b. Consultation

When uncertain as to whether a particular situation or course of action may be in violation of the Ethical Standards and Guidelines, astrologers consult with appropriate authorities or other astrologers who are knowledgeable about ethics, such as those on the IVATT Ethics Committee.

c. Informal Resolution

When astrologers have reasonable cause to believe that another astrologer is violating an ethical standard, they may first attempt to resolve the issue informally with the other astrologer, providing that such action does not violate confidentiality rights that may be involved.

d. Unwarranted Complaints

Astrologers do not initiate, participate in, or encourage the filing of ethics complaints that are un-

warranted or solely intended to harm another astrologer.

J.3. COOPERATION WITH IVATT ETHICS COMMITTEE.

Astrologers assist in the process of enforcing the Ethical Standards and Guidelines by cooperating with an inquiry for resolution, proceedings, and requirements of the IVATT Ethics Committee.

J.4. ETHICS VIOLATIONS

a. IVATT Ethics Committee

The main purposes of the IVATT Ethics Committee are to educate the Institute's membership about ethical codes and to protect the public and the astrological community from unethical practices. The IVATT Board chooses a Chair, the Chair chooses two other committee members with the approval of the IVATT board and two rotating committee members are selected at random and based on their willingness to serve. An ethics committee processes formal complaints against members of the Institute.

b. Resolution of Formal Complaints

When a formal complaint is lodged against a member of the Institute, the committee begins an inquiry and deliberates on resolving the issue. Eventually, a disposition is reached. The complaint may be dismissed, or the committee may find that ethical standards have been violated and impose sanctions.

c. Imposition of Sanctions

Depending upon the nature of the violation, possible sanctions include a reprimand, probation, suspension or revocation of IVATT membership or certification, referral of the matter to other bodies, or recommendation that some remedial action is taken such as obtaining ongoing supervision or personal therapy. Members have the right to appeal the committee's decision and present evidence on their behalf.

d. Filing a Formal Complaint

Suspected violations of these Ethical Standards and Guidelines should be brought to the attention of the IVATT ETHICS COMMITTEE in writing, at IVATT's headquarters: 42 Lendore Village, Chaguanas, Trinidad, West Indies.

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