

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES FOR ART THERAPISTS
AMERICAN ART THERAPY ASSOCIATION, Inc.
Effective Date: REVISED 4 DEC 2013

9.0 **RESPONSIBILITY TO RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS** Art therapy researchers respect the dignity and protect the welfare of participants in research.

9.1 Researchers are guided by laws, regulations, and professional standards governing the conduct of research. When institutional review and approval is required for the conduct of research with human subjects, art therapists provide accurate information about their proposed research, obtain approval from the relevant institutional review board (or equivalent) prior to initiating research activities, and adhere to the institutionally-approved protocol at every stage of the research.

9.2 To the extent that research participants may be compromised by participation in research, art therapist researchers seek the ethical advice of qualified professionals not directly involved in their investigations and observe safeguards to protect the rights of research participants.

9.3 Researchers requesting participants' involvement in research inform them of all aspects of the research that might reasonably be expected to influence willingness to participate. Researchers take all reasonable steps necessary to ensure that full and informed consent has been obtained from all participants. Particular attention is paid to the informed consent process with research participants who are also receiving clinical services, have limited understanding and/or communication, or are minors.

9.4 Researchers respect participants' freedom to decline participation in, or to withdraw from, a research study at any time with no negative consequences to their treatment.

9.5 Information obtained about research participants during the course of an investigation is confidential unless there is authorization previously obtained in writing. When there is a risk that others, including family members, may obtain access to such information, this risk, together with the plan for protecting confidentiality, is explained as part of the procedure for obtaining informed consent.

9.6 Artwork created by research participants as a part of a research study belongs to the research participants, unless otherwise specified through the research study informed consent document.

9.7 Art therapy researchers fulfill federal, state and institutional laws and regulations that pertain to the duration and location of retaining raw data. Original artwork and/or digital photographs of participant artwork are de-identified and securely stored. Audio or video recordings are stored according to compliant procedures in a password-protected electronic folder. Any artwork and/or photographs of artwork may be saved indefinitely for potential use in future research, presentations, publications and related educational forums, as specified in the informed consent document.