

Dhamma Sukha Meditation Center - Teachers/Guides Code of Ethics

*Dhamma Sukha Meditation Center upholds a Teacher Code of Ethics to ensure the integrity and safety of its teaching environment. It is expected that all staff and meditators and visitors will abide by the 5 precepts while they are here. Key policies include:

- **Non-Harming:** Teachers commit to refraining from harming any living being, emphasizing respect for all forms of life.
- **Non-Stealing:** There is a strict policy against taking what is not freely given, which encompasses respect for others' property and honest financial dealings. Teachers may explain the practice of Dana but will not solicit payment in exchange for instruction.
- **Sexual Conduct:** Teachers are prohibited from engaging in sexual relationships with current students. They may not make romantic or sexual overtures of any kind. They will avoid anything that may reasonably be interpreted as sexual harassment, including inappropriate jokes, touching, or conversation. In the rare case that both parties develop mutual attraction that they wish to pursue, they must do so outside of the retreat environment; long after the teacher-student relationship has ended; and in consultation with senior teachers.
- **Skillful Communication:** Honesty is paramount; teachers are expected to speak truthfully, avoid gossip, and maintain confidentiality. Teachers will not make statements they do not know to be true. While they may refer students to relevant sutta passages, they cannot definitively verify attainments, past lives, or other supramundane experiences.
- **Sobriety:** The use of intoxicants that cause heedlessness is always prohibited in keeping with the 5 precepts to maintain clarity and mindfulness. Even in the absence of drugs or alcohol, teachers will maintain professional boundaries and avoid heedlessness in their conduct. They will not behave in ways that create the appearance of impropriety.

These ethical guidelines are designed to foster a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all practitioners at DSMC.

*(Borrowed from Spirit Rock Policies-thank you)

Additional Guidelines:

- **Interviews** will be held in the official interview room. Meetings outside of an interview should not take place in areas that are closed off from public view.
- **Teachers should not reach out after the retreat** to follow up with students unless asked. Students should ask for guidance - DSMC does not reach out.
- **Questions about Trauma** in the student's past can be addressed if brought up by the student to the extent the trauma poses an issue or obstacle with the student's meditation practice, but DSMC does not give out therapeutic advice. Instead, we encourage students to contact an appropriate therapist.

Monastic Guidelines

- Dhamma Sukha Meditation Center primarily serves as a lay meditation community and does not have a resident monastic community. However, when monastics (ordained monks and nuns) participate in or lead programs at DSMC, they are expected to adhere to their traditional monastic codes of conduct, known as the Vinaya. Additionally, DSMC has established its own ethical guidelines to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all practitioners.
 - Monastics are rare and valuable opportunity for guidance and the transmission of dhamma and Dhamma Sukha will continue their support of senior monastics and novice monastics traveling with their preceptor, and will pay for all expenses of visiting monastics and provide lodging and food for them at no charge.
 - Dhamma Sukha will not be a residence for novice monastics unless their preceptor or another senior monk (with the permission of the novice monk's preceptor) is present to guide and oversee monastic

affairs. Novice monastics will not provide one-on-one teaching at DSMC unless their preceptor or other chief monk is there to guide them and be present in the one-on-one teaching sessions.

Update 12-25-24 UIBDS /Dcj