



Ethics, Law, and Cultural Competence in Art Therapy

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The recent passage of the U.S. state of Tennessee HB 1840 releases counselors and therapists from the ethical responsibility to provide services to clients whose behaviors, therapy goals, or chosen therapeutic outcomes conflict with the counselors' or therapists' "sincerely held principles" or religious beliefs. In support of positions taken by the American Counseling Association and the American Psychological Association, the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) issued a statement that opposes the Tennessee law, which permits discrimination based on claims of religious freedom (AATA, 2016).

Art Therapy: The Journal of the American Art Therapy Association seeks submissions for a special issue to explore ethics, law, and cultural competence in art therapy practice. Ethical principles and association documents provide aspirational values and principles to safeguard the welfare of individuals whom art therapists serve (AATA, 2013). This call for papers invites art therapists to consider questions such as:

- The response of art therapists when laws impact clients and their communities;
- The ethical responsibility of art therapists in promoting awareness and knowledge about the trauma and discrimination experienced by the LGBTQ community, access to health care, and reproductive rights for women, among other issues;
- The impact of shame, fear, and hate in producing subjectivities through the enactment of law and professional norms;
- How state sanctioned laws for protection normalize violence in the foster and residential care systems;
- Art therapists' ethical responsibilities when working in an international context;
- The limits of ethics and cultural competence in light of the religious freedom granted under the United States Constitution or other official documents of countries worldwide.

Deadline for Submission: January 31, 2017

Please refer to the "Guidelines for Submissions" for specific manuscript requirements and submit your paper [online](#).

References

American Art Therapy Association. (May 11, 2016). AATA supports the American Counseling Association's opposition to SB1556/HB 1840. Retrieved from <http://multibriefs.com/briefs/aata/support051116.pdf>

American Art Therapy Association. (2013). Ethical Principles for Art Therapists. Retrieved from <http://arttherapy.org/aata-ethics/>

