

Welcome to the Ethical Tarot Reader

It is with pleasure that I introduce this part of the Certification Course of Study.

One reason is because you have reached a point in your study where you are advancing through your courses successfully.

We our the ITF appreciate your commitment to your studies and for expecting an exemplary standard of ethics for yourself and your practise.

Tarot reading of the past carries the stereotypical, fortune teller image of Gypsy Rose Lee and her crystal ball.

In reality, this image is fading, especially as Tarot is becoming more widely practised and also studied. I do feel that the face of Tarot reading is changing.

Tarot reading is an Art and a serious study which is becoming more recognized.

The aim of this part of the Certification is for you, the student, to be able to recognize principles of good practise within your 'work'. Of course, many will always be implementing these principles as second nature and without realizing.

Our Code of Ethics at the ITF will be the foundation of reference during your readings and this stage of study.

We appreciate that students may have a desire to consider their own ethos in regards to ethics and this will be covered also.

Please enjoy the course

Lara

International Tarot Foundation Code of Ethics

- ❖ *Read with good intent and purpose*
- ❖ *Uphold the tradition of Tarot Reading*
- ❖ *Respect client confidentiality*
- ❖ *Be non-judgmental in your approach*

Read with Good Intent and Purpose

- ❖ Tarot is a wonderful divination tool, when used wisely and skilfully
- ❖ The benefits of a Tarot reading can be life changing. It is our responsibility to ensure the best experience possible for the questioner and place the welfare of the client as priority.
- ❖ We cannot make decisions for the questioner. A Tarot reading can guide on which direction to take by showing the options available to them.
- ❖ If a questioner is seeking out a health reading due to a health concern they should be advised to consult a medical expert.
- ❖ It is appropriate to give guidance with a tarot reading from insight shown in the cards but unless qualified as professional counselors we cannot 'counsel' our clients
- ❖ It is not appropriate to instill fear in the questioner, there is never a good reason to do so. 'Predicting' fearful news is without good purpose.
- ❖ Define your own principles of good practise before you begin reading for others. These can also be stated to your questioner/client.

Uphold the Tradition of Tarot Reading

- ❖ The art of Tarot reading goes back through centuries of history. Passed down along family lines of ancestors who upheld the mysteries of The Tarot.
- ❖ Tarot reading is an art, even though we live in a technical age, nothing can replace the process of card laying and traditional reading.
- ❖ When a client comes to you for a reading, they come for the 'experience' also. Consider this aspect when deciding where to read.
- ❖ Remember clients come for the reading and not a tarot lesson, they do not need to know how Tarot 'works', after all, the mystery is the appeal.

Respect Client Confidentiality

- ❖ Client confidentiality is an essential aspect of Tarot ethics and the responsibility of the Tarot reader.
- ❖ You are trusted with sensitive and personal information, of which should never be divulged to anyone.
- ❖ Reassure your client prior to the reading that you maintain confidentiality as a principle of good practise.

Be Non-Judgmental

- ❖ It is essential that we reserve any judgement or opinion on our clients and information that may show during a reading session.
- ❖ We must always reflect a non discriminating attitude.
- ❖ Remember we are each responsible for representing the tens of thousands of Tarot readers around the world.
- ❖ Respect your art and respect your fellow reader

What are Ethics?

"Ethics are the set of moral principles that guide a person's behavior. These morals are shaped by social norms, cultural practices, and religious influences. Ethics reflect beliefs about what is right, what is wrong, what is just, what is unjust, what is good, and what is bad in terms of human behavior. They serve as a compass to direct how people should behave toward each other, understand and fulfill their obligations to society, and live their lives." [Defining Ethics - Boundless](#)

Ethics, comes under the umbrella of philosophy and examines many aspects of why one chooses to be ethical and also why one would not.

Ancient and modern philosophers have been pondering over why and how we act a certain way and why we may choose to be ethical but having good judgement seems to be key.

Understanding our responsibility of the well being of others with whom we are entrusted with, is

important. In this respect, it is with good purpose that we examine our own ethical practise as Tarot readers and how this practise has effect on those whom we read for. As with all services and professions, there are good and not so good readers. What we, the reader can do, is set a good example to other readers and strive at building a positive impression of Tarot reading as a whole.



What are Ethics?

“What’s the point of having beliefs and values if we don't stand up for the former and live by the latter?”

— Colleen Patrick-Goudreau

Integrity

conscience

responsibility



fairness

principles

Whether you choose to read for family and friends or for clients, realizing and developing your own code of ethics will be most beneficial, to you and your querents.

It is quite often the case that many Tarot readers will already be ethical by nature but for the purpose of this course we will examine work ethics more closely.

Exploring Ethics

The 5 key words above describe qualities that can be applied to aspects of ethics, we can consider these as principles of good practise.

Using the text boxes below, please describe how each can play a role in creating a positive experience for the client within a Tarot Reading

A) Integrity

25/11/17 Student: I believe working and living with integrity is key. To me, integrity means that being honest with tact, reading what the cards say and delivering the message in such a way as not to offend but not to change what is being read just to satisfy the reader.

B) Conscience

25/11/17 Student: Always reading by my personal moral code, and not lying about what I am seeing in the cards. If it is a hard read, showing perhaps the Tower, Death, and 6 of Swords, then this must be explained to the sitter in a just and tender manner.

C) Responsibility

25/11/17 Student: It is my "job," my responsibility to read fairly. If there is something in the read that is not clear, then I must look into it with a second read and not just leave it or ignore it.

D) Fairness

25/11/17 Student: Again, to read what is being shown with a clear state of mind and justly explaining what is being seen.

E) Principles

25/11/17 Student: I live my life with the rule of treating others the way I want to be treated. This applies in almost every aspect of my life, including Tarot. I want my clients to understand that when they come for a read with me, I will explain what I see and deliver the message to the best of my ability and as clearly as possible.

Mentor Comments: Your thoughts on the points that you have raised are very fair and considerate.

I would like to ask how you would read the insight of this lay of cards? We would have to be so sure that we are 100% confident in how we are seeing the insight of these cards. We also need to consider the implications of a person's knowledge of what is coming.

If someone has asked about the future of a very sick relative who is currently ill, can see the positive in such a reading?

I have often considered this point myself, I feel that the universe would not show us something in the cards that we or the client is not meant to know but I would tread very carefully on wording. Explaining that there looks to be a possibly unexpected but peaceful closure to a current situation can leave the the client to come to their own conclusion.

What are your thoughts Chaitali?

Tower, Death, and 6 of Swords

12/Jan/2018 Student:

I have lived through this question, so the insight would be from personal experience.

I would begin by explaining that though these cards look scary and intimidating, there is always something positive lying within them. For they tell us a story, some better and/or happier than others, but since you have come for this reading, any information gained, in my opinion, is positive.

As we know your relative is sick and due to this sickness, probably in pain. Based on what we can learn from the cards today, I believe it will be important for you to spend quality time and if possible, talking with your loved one as much as you can; for their time may be shorter with than what we may want. I feel that perhaps their transition will be smooth, leaving the troubled waters of this sickness behind them. While I understand this may be a difficult thing to hear, it is important to remember that there is time right to now to be with him/her. I am sorry, but thank you for allowing me to help you at this time.

True Life Case Study 1

Here we have a real life example of a reported situation that allows us to discuss the ethics of what occurred.

Some will remember the Brighton Tarot Reader who was giving a Tarot reading to a male who ended up confessing a murder after a lay of cards. Below, is an extract from the newspaper report.

A killer confessed to his housemate's murder during a tarot card reading as the devil card was dealt.

Star Randel-Hanson killed Derick Marney, 70, at a flat in Vernon Terrace, Brighton, in May 2015.

He broke down and confessed to the murder 10 days later when he went to tarot reader Jayne Braiden on Brighton seafront.

She alerted police but was told it was a "non-emergency" so she waited an hour with the killer for an officer to come.

Ms Braiden told BBC Radio 5 Live: "By the time we got to the devil card he broke down and started crying.

"It's the first time I've dealt with murder before. It was a shock but you have to be professional and I needed to keep him calm."

Please read the full story here: [Source](#)

As you can imagine, this raised much discussion amongst the Tarot community. The situation was discussed in our Tarot Study Group and I can remember reading varied responses from members with reference to this.

Mostly, many were supportive but some may have seen this as client confidentiality being broken.

This is a very fine line to tread, imagine the potential problems that could occur if we informed others of client's intentions, or mis dealings and actions.

This is where our ethics comes into the scenario, we form judgements based on our principles and understanding from which our work ethics are based.

We can of course, always do our utmost to guide the client to making balanced choices and Tarot is generally going to give the best guidance that is possible.

But we must also consider that there will be the potential occasion where our ethics may be challenged. The Tarot Reader from Brighton was sure of her position and confident in what she would do next upon hearing the confession?

For the next session we will look at this situation closer and evaluate, looking at the general perspectives

Session 2: A Question of Ethics

For this session, I would like you to read through the news report on the story of the Tarot Reader and the client who was convicted.

Then discuss the different perspectives and come to a conclusion sums up your thoughts on this.

Where/if do you feel that the readers ethics were potentially challenged?

Please try to relate this to the ITF Code of Ethics

25/11/17 Student: I feel that her ethics were probably challenged the moment the confession was made. I feel that she has done the correct and rather brave thing! Especially since she asked the man if she can call the police.

Referring to the ITF Code of Ethics, please discuss where you feel the Tarot reader acted in an Ethically manner.

25/11/17 Student: I feel that she did not break any ethics rules as she was open with the man about the police and she is a tarot reader, not a lawyer. While I understand and fully agree that there is a level of confidentiality that we as Tarot readers have, murder crosses that line.

Please summarize your general thoughts on the whole situation

25/11/17 Student: Bravo to her for keeping her composure, being open with the client about informing the police, and shame on the 911 operator who felt this woman's life was not possibly in danger!

Mentor Comments: Excellent thoughts on this situation!

Real Life Case Study 2

Two years back, a lady joined our reading group and promptly messaged a team member, explaining that she was very worried because she had a reading on a Tarot page and had been given bad news.

The lady was currently pregnant and the reader informed her that she would likely die during childbirth and if she survives the birth, she will be very ill.

We were upset and shocked for her and consequently I carried out a reading for her.

In fact I remember looking at three readings, to be certain and to gain full clarity of the situation.

This poor lady had hardly slept for several weeks, so I didn't want to make any mistake at all with this reading and the information that I would be giving to her.

The main, significant reading was a 3 card reading using the 5 of cups to focus on as this had shown up in an earlier reading. The three cards that I drew were, Judgement, 10 wands and Death with the Wheel of Fortune as the clarifier.

I felt that her reading was signifying important life changes around the time of the birth of her baby. The birth would be the turning point in the changes in her life in more ways than one.

We advised her not to worry about the birth but also asked her to come back for a free reading every several weeks so I could guide her as best I could throughout her remaining pregnancy for reassurance.

All this worry she must have gone through because of one 'bad' reader. Yes her cards looked negative but they help an important message for her that would improve her life...certainly not end it.

I did continue to read for her and during her last week of pregnancy , her cards changed. Judgement was positioned with the 3 of Swords for the actual birth, along with the Knight of Swords.

This, to me, was a fair indication that there would be incident at the birth. I explained that there is potential that she will need an unexpected surgical procedure that will be carried out urgently. I advised her to remain calm,

that all would be ok but that she needs to be aware than this surgery is important.

In fact she messaged a couple of days after the birth to let me know that she had to have urgent surgery after her baby was born and that this was successful, she explained that she was strangely calm but this was because she was already reassured that all would be fine.

I guess this brings in several points of discussion in regards to ethics from both the original reader and on to myself also.



Session 3: The Reader Responsibility

Please try to refer to the ITF Code of Ethics in your replies, when possible

What are your thoughts on the Ethics of the initial reader?

25/11/17 Student: I feel the original reader was just playing a doom and gloom game on this poor woman. Yes, the cards are heavy, but so if life at times. And as all good/fair readers know, Death does not always mean physical death, it means so much more, hence my saying the doom and gloom game.

Additionally, this woman is pregnant. And as most pregnant women are, they are already scared or nervous that something they do will harm their growing baby. I feel that this reader may have also been picking up on this and just adding to it, instead of looking at the full situation.

What are your thoughts on the actions of myself as a reader, in regards to Ethics.

(We welcome critical evaluation)

25/11/17 Student: I feel that the read was just and that your approach was wise. Looking at the 5 of Cups as the focal point was innovative and I am sure probably helped you further understand what was happening with this woman. (Please let me know how this type of read works when possible.)

I feel the follow up reads were very generous of you and I think that I would have done the same. Again, it is already a stressful time being a pregnant woman, and having someone as the first reader read for her probably caused her stress to go through the roof. I also feel that your final read before delivery was just and clear. I do feel that telling her all would be fine even with a last minute surgery was more an emotional statement, and I feel that I would have done the same. Given that you had been reading her for quite some time about a delicate subject created a connection where it seems natural to offer her that support that all will be well. In this case it did work out, but I am not sure how it would have been if something did go awry. I think that this is something I will need to work on moving forward. Even through the development of an emotional connection, I think it will be key to keep my emotions to the side when reading the layout.

Do you have any thoughts/ideas on how a situation similar to this can be avoided from occurring in the future?

25/11/17 Student: For myself, I will need to make sure that I am able to compartmentalize my emotions during any/all reads to ensure when reading I do not offer the hope of all will be well if I am not sure. I know this may be difficult since there is always a bond that is created between reader and sitter. However I feel this will be of utmost importance not only for me as a boundary, but for the sitter to ensure that the read is based on what I am seeing not on my emotional response for the sitter.

Mentor Comments: Very fair comments Chaitali and you are right on the remark that I made. No matter how much I felt everything would be fine or how much the cards reassured me of this, with hindsight, I should have avoided telling her this or wording it differently.

I did have confidence in my reading and the universe but still, I could have been wrong or something could have changed on the last minute.

Your perspective on this is correct, absolutely.

Personal Ethics versus Work Ethics

This is potentially one area of Tarot Reading and upholding an non discriminatory practices that can cause some inner conflict. Practising

unbiasedly with our client means we can show no personal opinion when faced with a situation within the cards that may not be compatible with our own ethos.

As we know, with Tarot, the guidance be what the client needs and this, to some degree can take much of this conflict out of our hands.

Unfortunately, after saying this, I do also find that not all situations are so clearly defined.

I had one client who was in a 'friends with benefits' situation, she wanted commitment from this young man so much that she was prepared to become pregnant to secure this.

In fact, I did not 'see' this specifically in the reading but I did mention to her that I did see an aspect of this relationship where she is dealing with something the wrong way.

She then explained to me the actual idea that she was mulling over.

Fortunately, the rest of the spread dealt with aspects of her personal development and how she can move forward from this man and I didn't once mention my opinion on her plans in any way.

Of course, this is a fine line, becoming pregnant without the man's consent is not a legal issue (as far as I know) , ethically it does have implications but she wasn't actually breaking the law.

There are many other ethical situations that can potentially be raised within a Tarot Reading so setting our stall, knowing how we will act and respond to such situations is professional and advisable.

Session 4: Non Discriminatory Practise

Are there any ways that you could promote a non discriminating environment in your work practise.

25/11/17 Student: For starters, I would not have sitters come to my personal space/house. I feel that is my starting point. Then, if renting a space I feel that I would keep it rather simple with not a lot of religious

artifacts or too many personal things. I would create a feeling of a clean canvas, so that when each sitter comes the space becomes theirs to paint within during the reading. There will be candles and incense and soft music as I feel that offers inspiration to be open and feel comfortable during the read. I feel that this offers a non-discriminatory environment

If an issue is raised within the reading, that conflicts strongly with your own personal ethics, what strategies can help you to deal with it?

25/11/17 Student: I feel that if it does not work with my personal ethos, that is between me and myself. If there is nothing that I deem criminal happening, then I will continue with the read. I will perhaps offer a different perspective after I have read the layout. Perhaps to offer a different point of view helps the sitter see that there is always more than one way to deal with something.

If you were faced with indication of illegal practices within your client's reading, how might you deal with this?

25/11/17 Student: If I feel that there is something criminal and/or illegal, then I would stop the read and offer the sitter back their money explaining that unfortunately I am not connecting with this read and feel it unfair to continue. In my personal life, I work with the belief that I do not harm you, and you are not to harm me. If this becomes an issue, I have no problems walking away from it, especially if there is any moment that I think I and/or my family can/will be harmed.

Mentor's Comment: Thank-you for your thoughts Chaitali, they are very valid.

Non Discriminatory Work Ethics

In 1948 we were delivered the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This really was a turning point worldwide in the first steps to considering our basic right of freedom as human beings. From the platform came the declaration of Human Rights in writing.

Since this period of progress, laws have been developed in many countries which embody aspects of the Human Rights laws. As a Tarot reader, it is mindful to be aware of these basic human rights because we will have opportunity to meet a broad cross section of people in the community. Our duty is to practise and reflect a non discriminative approach to our clients.

Here are two definitions of discrimination, there are other forms which can be viewed more so here: [Equality Law Association \(UK\)](#)

Direct Discrimination

Direct Discrimination occurs when someone is treated less favourably than another person because of a protected characteristic¹ they have or are thought to have (see Perceptive Discrimination below), or because they associate with someone who has a protected characteristic

Indirect Discrimination

This already applies to Age, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex, Sexual Orientation and Marriage and Civil Partnership. It is now extended to cover Disability and Gender Reassignment.

Indirect Discrimination can occur when you have a condition, rule, policy or even a practice in your organisation that applies to everyone but particularly disadvantages people who share a protected characteristic.

Protected Characteristics

Below are the Protected Characteristics as taken from the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

([Sourced Here](#))

¹ Personal characteristics that are protected by the [Equality Act 2010](#)

Age

Where this is referred to, it refers to a person belonging to a particular age (for example 32 year olds) or range of ages (for example 18 to 30 year olds).

Disability

A person has a disability if she or he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Gender reassignment

The process of transitioning from one gender to another.

Marriage and civil partnership

Marriage is no longer restricted to a union between a man and a woman but now includes a marriage between a same-sex couple. [1]

Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples (except where permitted by the Equality Act).

[1] Section 1, Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014.

Pregnancy and maternity

Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the

non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

Race

Refers to the protected characteristic of Race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

Religion and belief

Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (such as Atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

Sex

A man or a woman.

Sexual orientation

Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.

Session 5:

For this next session, please note the potential 'Protected Characteristic' that may be highlighted within a Tarot Reading.

There are 9 boxes but you do not have to include all 9 unless you can see the potential in each and every one of them.

Each one is numbered, so you can tick the box if you see it potentially being reflected within a Tarot reading.

Please also add a small explanation in the box provided as to how discrimination (direct or indirect) may occur.

1. Age:

25/11/17 Student: Discriminating against someone who looks like they are under 18 years of age. While I understand there are not necessarily age related rules, perhaps a reader decides not to read for someone they consider to be a child.

2. Disability

25/11/17 Student: If a reader owned their own store and/or office, but did not have a ramp for easy access for the disabled who are in a wheelchair.

3. Gender reassignment

25/11/17 Student: A reader telling a client that they will not read for someone who they cannot tell if they are male or female.

4. Marriage and civil partnership

25/11/17 Student: Blatantly refusing to read for a homosexual couple

5. Pregnancy and maternity

6. Race

25/11/17 Student: A reading is done for a Black man with great disrespect using inappropriate language and racial slurs.

7. Religion and belief

25/11/17 Student: In order to do a read for a Muslim woman, the reader insists that she removes her hijab sighting religious concerns.

8. Sex A man or a woman.

25/11/17 Student: A male reader offering to do a reading for sexual favors from a female sitter

9. Sexual orientation

25/11/17 Student: If during a reading, it becomes clear that the male sitter is interested in another male, and the reader makes derogatory comments and refers to this potential relationship as bad or evil.

Mentor Comments: Great thoughts on this Chaitali, thank-you, you gave a great example on all the above. Pregnancy is a difficult one because it may more so relate to staff and workplace.

Recognizing Protected Characteristics

Session 6

Can you identify which 'Protected Characteristics' would be protected under the International Tarot Foundation's Code of Ethics (As shown at the initial part of this course).

Please state which ones and how they may be protected in the general comments box below.

25/11/17 Student:

1) All of the ITF Code of Ethics:

In order to read with good intent and purpose, to uphold the tradition of Tarot, to respect client confidentiality, to be non-judgemental, a reader would not discriminate against any of the "Protected Characteristics"

Mentor: Good observation, I agree too Chaitali.

Your Code of Ethics

Session 7

We would like you to have a go at putting together your own Code of Ethics that you feel you could work from.

Alternatively, you can re-organize the The International Tarot Foundation Code of Ethics into priority order.

Guidance: It will be useful for students who wish to design their own Code, to give a title to each ethical statement as we have done for the ITF's. Once you have done this, you can then give definition to each of the statements. It can be just a sentence to explain the statement a little further, or more if you prefer.

Code of Ethics General Statements

25/11/17 Chaitali's Code of Ethics:

- 1) Treat my sitter as I would want to be treated
- 2) To be clear and concise
- 3) To maintain confidentiality so my sitter is comfortable
- 4) Do no harm, but take no shit.

Please give more information on your statements. Please 'bold' or number each statement so it is easier for your mentor to read.

25/11/17 Student:

- 1) This is my primary ethos in life, so it is natural to treat my sitter the way I would want to be treated when coming for reading.

- 2) I will use easy to understand language and to explain what I am seeing in an easy to understand format. There is no need for "Big words" so that I can feel smarter and my client not as smart.

- 3) I am believe that there is an innate trust between a reader and their sitter that is to be maintained given sometimes the conversations can be of very intimate details of their lives.
- 4) There is never a reason to harm another. Nor will I be harmed because someone does not like what they are hearing. There must be an understanding that this a partnership of sorts given the back and forthness of the conversation

Mentor Comments: Valid and fair comments Chaitali, thank-you for your honest thoughts.

Self Evaluating Your Own Principles of Good Practice

As part of your Student File you will have a section that allows you to complete information of practice readings that you have carried out. For any of those readings, or readings that you carry out during the duration of your Certification course, please critically evaluate where you feel you have displayed principles of good practice where ethics have been considered.

Please give details of 5 examples of readings where you have considered Ethics. These examples can be as subtle as choosing words that do not presume all couples are married or same sex by using appropriate language.

For example: Saying partner instead of husband

1. Sandra's read, I feel that using the phrase "shooting your mouth off" wasn't ideal. If I were to do that reading again, I would omit this sentence.

Mentor: Fair evaluation yes.

2. Shwetha's Read: I felt that I upheld my ethics and was to able to word my sentences clearly and within the realms of my comfort to explain something rather esoteric as her question had to do with her connection.

Mentor: Excellent

3. Tracy's read: This was tricky to navigate given that she is anxious about an upcoming holiday, but I feel that I was again direct yet kind worded about what the holiday may entail.

Mentor: Yes, I agree

**This concludes the Ethics aspect of the
Certification course.**

