

5 Tips For Running a Safe, Ethical, & Vibrant Practice

Ian Foster, J.D.

Five Tips For Running a Safe, Ethical, & Vibrant Practice

Outline:

Intro: Healing Our Legal Anxiety

Tip #1: Writing a Quality Client Contract

Tip #2: Compliance With Professional Licensing Laws

Tip #3: Benefiting From Safe Harbor Laws

Tip #4: Your “Duty of Care” to Clients

Tip #5: Business Entities & Taxes

All remaining time will be devoted to Q&A

DISCLAIMER:

Ian Foster is a licensed and practicing attorney who specializes in the healing and transformational community. However, nothing in his presentation or in this handout should be considered legal advice. The presentation is intended to be educational in nature and is not a substitute for consultation with a qualified and licensed attorney who shares your mission and values.

If you want additional information, feel free to email Ian at:

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If you want to join Ian’s email list so you can learn more about his virtual legal workshops for the healing community, you may download the free Informed Consent Checklist at www.InformedConsentChecklist.com

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Intro: Healing Our Legal Anxiety

- ✓ Your legal and tax problems are actually fear & anxiety problems
- ✓ As healers, we all know we can't resolve emotions by ignoring them
- ✓ Put a name to the fear and anxiety – lean into it and feel it
- ✓ Respect fear, listen to it, but don't let it control you
- ✓ Realize the role that lack of knowledge and misperceptions play in fear
- ✓ Start reframing law & taxes as something empowering by learning how they are designed to work for you and your clients

Notes:

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Tip #1: Writing a Quality Client Contract

- ✓ Do you have a contract with your clients? (It's a trick question!)
- ✓ A contract requires offer, acceptance, and an exchange of value
- ✓ Consider benefits of putting things in writing versus relying on memory
- ✓ When you present your contract, it's all about attitude

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Tip #2: Compliance With Professional Licensing Laws

- ✓ Calm our anxiety! Nobody is getting arrested for energy healing!
- ✓ If you are practicing in good faith and trying to be compliant, the government is not all that concerned about you
- ✓ Medical and mental health licensing laws exist not to shut down good-faith practitioners, but to protect citizens from bad-faith practitioners
- ✓ Remember that nobody has a monopoly on healing ... not doctors, not therapists, not energy healers, not shamanic healers ... we all got into these professions because we believe the world needs healing and we're all on the same team!

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Tip #3: Benefiting From Safe Harbor Laws

- ✓ Governments recognize that western medicine is not the only way to heal people, and there aren't enough doctors to go around
- ✓ "Safe Harbor" is an old maritime term ... how might it apply now?
- ✓ Notice requirements – put your clients on notice of boundaries and limitations
- ✓ Practice requirements – substantive rights for your clients and limits on how you can behave – all designed to protect clients from unscrupulous practitioners
- ✓ Make sure you have a "Client Bill of Rights"

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Tip #4: Your “Duty of Care” to Clients

- ✓ Your clients place tremendous trust in you, and you have a duty to give them best care you can within your expertise
- ✓ “Nondiscrimination” –it’s not your job to like your clients or approve of their lifestyle choices; instead it’s your job to love them and guide them because everyone deserves healing no matter who they are
- ✓ “Stay in your lane” – act within your areas of professional competency and expertise and refer your clients to other experts when that would be helpful
- ✓ “Dual Relationships” – there is always legal and ethical danger when you have two relationships with a client: one as their healer and one as something else (friend, family, licensed professional, etc.)
- ✓ Those of you with professional licenses must be especially mindful of these concepts

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Tip #5: Business Entities & Taxes

- ✓ It's easy to forget about the “back end” business stuff like forming a proper business, running it the right way, and filing our taxes ... but this is just as important as everything else we've discussed!
- ✓ Think about the “Swiss Cheese Defense”
- ✓ If you are running a healing business, you need a business entity
- ✓ Get insurance – typically it's cheap peace of mind
- ✓ As a small business owner, tax laws are literally designed to benefit you, save you money, and help your business grow!

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Question & Answer Time!

Additional Notes From Q&A Time:
