



Rabbinic Code of Ethics and Professional Policies

Appropriate, authentic and humble spiritual mentorship and pastoral care can help you heal, discover and recover your passion and inspiration to create. Through active listening, curiosity, paradox, storytelling out of a mythic tradition, playfulness, conversation and the right gentle questions, I have helped people like you get unstuck in their creative projects and pursuits. The work of a grounded spiritual creative mentorship must be guided by moral principles and policies:

Inclusion and Equity

I practice radical diversity: of thought, age and stage of life, religious background (any or none), family of origin, physical capacity, neurological development, criminal history, sexual orientation, gender identity, financial wherewithal, political persuasion, and appearance

Non-proselytizing

I am a Rabbi with over twenty years experience as a Jewish religious professional and interfaith civic leader; I speak from my tradition because it is what is authentic to me. Nonetheless, our work together is not intended to promote my faith nor proselytize to you. Your religious background and faith tradition are private matters between you and your conception of any Higher Power or Mystery. I will not ask about it unless it seems material to our spiritual and creative journey, or if you choose to self-disclose. My belief is that this non-evangelizing stance can even facilitate healing from religious trauma.

Boundaries

A Rabbi possesses power and authority in pastoral relationships, and I am ever aware of the possible impact of this power. Professional and Rabbinic ethics demand that Rabbis protect those who come to them for counseling, guidance, instruction, or help. Such persons put their trust in the Rabbi to help them in a safe manner. Sometimes they are vulnerable; Rabbis must not violate the boundaries that separate Rabbis from persons in their care and trust. I am especially careful of boundary violations in which power and authority can be misused for personal gain or to intimidate or inflict harm on another. That includes sexual harassment or any sexual advances, be they verbal or physical, direct or implied, and/or sexual exploitation of any kind. Any such misconduct is a violation of the professional relationship.

Confidentiality

Rabbis operate with a sacred trust, and our conversations are confidential. I have worked with public figures, and I never share more than a client's artistic medium (e.g., "A filmmaker suggested..."; "A sculptor tried..."). I am aware of the inherent tensions between art and commerce, celebrity and authentic spiritual growth. Rabbis are obligated to keep professional standards of confidentiality, except under the following circumstances when it becomes necessary to intervene, or request the intervention of others, as a Mandatory Reporter to prevent

harm being done: (1) Threat of harm to oneself or to others; (2) Domestic violence; or (3) Child or Elder abuse.

Intellectual property

Rabbis must take special care to avoid improper use of intellectual property. I forego and forswear any rights – monetary or otherwise – to any work created during or resulting from our relationship. Permission must be sought for use of copyright material and permission and appropriate citation given for all material used.

Legal matters

As a general rule, because of potential conflict with issues of confidentiality, Rabbis avoid taking sides or becoming parties to a court case where legal testimony may be given and heard.

Communication

I'm a bit old-fashioned in that my preference is for voice-calling and voice-mail: My direct line is (USA) 917/ 608- 5901, and the best time to call is between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. (SMS text is Ok, but easily missed; and, email is my last preference: alon@eclecticcleric.com). My phone and computer are turned off during *Shabbat* (Sabbath from 5:00 p.m. Friday until Sunday morning) and for Jewish holidays (any **bold** dates shown here: hebcad.com/holidays).

Fee

I want our connection to feel personal, comfortable and easy, and that includes the way my fee works. Every session we spend together uses the same payment scale: Before each session begins, I ask you to pay 1/1000th of whatever you make in a year (that is, 0.1% before taxes). On or about tax-time, you tell me what that number will be for the year. Instead of worrying about whether you can afford our time together, you can focus on your spiritual journey and the creative endeavors you love. In exchange, I can continue supporting and counseling you as you grow and flourish. In addition to our monthly session, you will be invited to attend any workshops and retreats offered while you are an active client; any associated fees are separate. You may pay on PayPal or Venmo @[EclecticCleric](https://www.paypal.com/mpp/users/Alon%20Cleric) or by check to “Eclectic Cleric, LLC”.

Cancellation

When you need to change or cancel an appointment, please do so by phone or email before 9:00 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time) the day prior to your session. This commitment honors our work and the Sanctuary we are creating together for your art. Missed appointments can still be billed.

Referrals

I always welcome referrals: If you know an artist in need of Spiritual Counsel, please let them know that I am available. If they are willing to share their mobile number, I am happy to call them first; in fact, sometimes that's easier for someone who's in a vulnerable position. I define “Art” and “Artists” as broadly as possible: architecture, couture, cuisine, design, documentary, essay, gaming, novel, orchestral composition, painting, performance, photography, poetry, popular song, sculpture, tattoo, theater, and so many more. Likewise, since our work is therapeutic but *not* therapy, I can also provide resources and referrals.