

CHECK YOUR CERTIFICATION STATUS

Are you *really* a Certified Hypnotherapist?

You took the training, passed the test and were awarded a certificate stating that you are a Certified Hypnotherapist (or Hypnotist, depending on your state laws). Before you conclude that you're done ... that you have earned the credentials and the right to use them ... check the expiration date on your certificate!

Just as with a state-awarded license or registration for professions such as realtors, nurses, attorneys, doctors, etc., you are required to renew your certification annually if you want to keep the title. And (just like in other professions) you are required to pay renewal membership fees (usually at a reduced rate) and show proof of the required Continuing Education Units (CEUs). A realtor, nurse or other professional who fails to renew loses their right to practice. When hypnotherapist fail to renew, that certification is revoked.

And this is a good thing we expect the experts in any field to belong to reputable organizations that keep them abreast of changes, new requirements, laws and progress in their field. We expect the professionals we trust with our needs to be up-to-date on current advances in their field. To remain an expert means you never quit learning.

To continue using the initials CH or CHt when you are not current in your membership is a **violation of your certifying body's requirements, fraudulent advertising** and could be considered **misrepresentation to the public**. This could end up being detrimental to us all.

As Certified Hypnotherapists we are encouraged to help "police our own" in order to protect our profession and our public image. We are encouraged to ask others in our area using the initials, CH or CHt which organization issued their certification. We can generally run a quick check on their status by checking on line. This can be accomplished for IMDHA by checking the online membership directory and quietly reporting anyone that is fraudulently claiming IMDHA certification status.

This is especially important too if you live in a state that has a psychology act on the books listing hypnotherapy as a tool of psychology. Should legal problems arise you will benefit greatly by belonging to a reputable hypnosis organization with specific guidelines for certification, a good Code of Ethics, and Recommended Standards of Practice. Without a reputable organization behind you, legal problems could become financially disastrous. Keeping your certification current puts a major organization and all their contacts on your side.

With IMDHA, a lapse of less than 1 year simply requires proof of CEUs and an \$85 renewal fee. A lapse of over 1 year requires that you reapply and pay a \$155 fee. You generally do not need to re-test. So ... if you have let your certification lapse or know of others that have, please pass this along. It's up to us to make sure the profession of hypnosis remains professional.

Anne King, CH
IMDHA approved school owner