

## ONTABA™'s Position Statement on the Use of Contingent Electric Skin Shock (CESS)

The application of energy in the form of electricity for aversive conditioning including contingent electric skin shock (CESS) is outside the scope of practice for ONTABA™'s members and anyone practicing as a behaviour analyst in Ontario. CESS is inconsistent with ONTABA™'s values, committing that all individuals are deserving of respect, dignity, and safety while in our care. Supportive procedures that focus on the development of adaptive and socially significant skills that are meaningful to the individual, their family, and community should be the focus of ABA services. Procedures to promote safety and autonomy must be consistent with ethical standards and include oversight and compliance with all regulatory and industry guidelines. Practitioners must collaborate with individuals (whenever possible) or legal guardians prior to the implementation of all skill building and behaviour reduction procedures. Further, the individual and/or a legal guardian must provide consent/assent prior to the introduction of any behaviour analytic procedure(s).

ONTABA™ is the largest chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), which affirmed in a past vote that CESS is now forbidden for use under any condition within the scope of behaviour analytic practice. That position statement can be found [here](#).

ONTABA™ is aligned with the values of the communities we serve. We are committed to helping all individuals that we work with live their best lives through the compassionate implementation of Applied Behaviour Analysis.

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