



POSITION PAPER

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Drs. Douglas W. Ota Opens "Safe Passage Coaching"

Why "Coaching"?

In the last decades, funding for psychological services in the Netherlands has witnessed two gradual but unmistakable shifts. On the one hand, reimbursement for services is shrinking. On the other hand, the bureaucracy and control mechanisms surrounding these shrinking services is growing exponentially. As I.T. increasingly pervades society, therapists and their clients are subject to an exponential rise in the ability of remote agencies—like insurance companies—to measure, evaluate, and control our choices. These trends are visible across Dutch society, and there is no end in sight.

I believe that treatment decisions should be driven by what is best for my client. Yet neither of the societal trends described above is clearly driven by such considerations. These trends are visibly driven by economic forces, short-term politics, and the power of large organizations. Among these shifting tectonic plates, it is at times difficult, if not impossible, to discern my clients' interests.

Yet I work for my clients' interests. My clients hire me to assist on issues they want addressed and resolved. And my clients are perfectly capable of evaluating whether their work with me is helping. I do not believe my clients need economic forces, short-term politics, or large organizations making this judgment call for them.

To extricate myself and my clients from this conflict of interest, I made the decision in 2015 to reposition my expertise and professional activities under the title "coach" and "coaching."

This decision constitutes a conscientious objection to unnecessary control. In order to safeguard high professional standards, I maintain registration as an NIP Child Psychologist (NIP Kinder- en jeugdpsycholoog) with the Dutch Psychological Association (NIP), as well as international affiliate membership with the American Psychological Association (APA). If professionalism is assured via a constant process of intervision, professional development, and peer review, then my clients can be the ones to measure and evaluate my effectiveness.

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