Suggestions for a Contextual Approach to Disclosure and Transparency

Community Renewal Group discussions | Updated disclosure language and website links, November 2026

Through Community Renewal Group conversations and related conversations outside the formal meetings, one thing became particularly clear: people within the Integral Yoga community hold sincerely different views about how the history concerning Swami Satchidananda should be addressed. Members differ in how they understand this history, what they believe appropriate acknowledgment and accountability should entail, and how they envision healing and reconciliation. There are also different ways that people understand and relate to Swami Satchidananda himself.

At the same time, the conversations helped clarify one practical area where a reasonable approach may be possible: how we provide appropriate information to people considering a significant commitment to Integral Yoga, without making this history a recurring or defining feature of ordinary participation in our programs.

We do not need to resolve the community's differing views in order to establish a reasonable approach to transparency. What seems possible is a simple, contextual approach that makes relevant information available when someone is considering a significant commitment, provides fuller information to those who want it, and does not require proactive disclosure in settings where it serves no meaningful purpose.

The following concept is offered in that spirit.

Guiding Principle

Transparency does not require giving everyone the same amount of information in every context. It requires making relevant information available in proportion to the commitment a person is considering, with fuller information readily accessible if they wish to know more or discuss it.

1. Ordinary Participation

For classes, retreats, public programs, open houses, visitors, newsletters, and similar forms of participation, no proactive disclosure would be recommended.

Information concerning this history can remain readily available to anyone who wishes to seek it, yet it need not be introduced automatically into ordinary participation in Integral Yoga.

2. Teacher Training

Because Teacher Training represents a significant investment of time and money and may lead to an individual becoming an authorized teacher and representative of Integral Yoga, it is recommended that a brief disclosure be included in Teacher Training application materials before enrollment.

The Community Dharma Project offers the following Recommended Disclosure:

During the 1960s and 1970s, Swami Satchidananda engaged in sexual activity with some adult students. This crossed ethical boundaries within the spiritual teacher–student relationship. That relationship places particular responsibilities on the teacher and involves an inherent power differential.

Swami Satchidananda remains the founder and Guru of Integral Yoga, and the spiritual wisdom transmitted through him remains foundational to the Integral Yoga Tradition. Recognizing this spiritual transmission does not deny, excuse, or minimize what occurred.

An alternative complete version with additional Guru-tattva context is also available. Each version is intended to be used in its entirety.

Read both complete Recommended Disclosure versions

Those who would like additional information or wish to discuss this history are welcome to contact the Teacher Training director. Additional written materials are available, including information about the history, the community's response, and the continuing spiritual significance of Swami Satchidananda within the Integral Yoga Tradition.

Community Care and Transparency

No additional disclosure would ordinarily be necessary during a Teacher Training open house or during the training itself unless a participant wishes to receive further information or discuss the matter. This allows the information to be available before someone makes the commitment to Teacher Training without making the history a recurring or defining feature of the training experience.

For Centers and Trainers That Do Not Provide Advance Disclosure

The Community Dharma Project recommends that relevant historical information be provided before enrollment in Teacher Training. If a center chooses not to provide advance disclosure, we recommend that it consider adopting a written policy offering an appropriate withdrawal and tuition-refund safeguard for future trainees. The center would establish the eligibility requirements, deadlines, and any implications for certification. These recommendations are offered for consideration and do not establish a refund entitlement or constitute a policy adopted by any Integral Yoga institution.

Any such policy should specify which future enrollments it covers. These recommendations do not create retroactive promises of refunds.

3. Mantra Diksha

Mantra Diksha represents a significant spiritual commitment, making informed choice especially important. Our discussions also revealed a need for greater clarity and shared understanding concerning the meaning of Mantra Diksha within the Integral Yoga Tradition, the role and responsibilities of those authorized to give initiation, and the relationship of the initiate to Swami Satchidananda as Guru.

We recommend that individuals considering Mantra Diksha receive a clear explanation of the nature of the commitment they are undertaking, together with appropriate disclosure before initiation. This would allow each person to make an informed decision while respecting the different ways individuals may understand and relate to Swami Satchidananda.

For further context on the role of the Guru, the following resource may be useful:

Understanding the Guru Principle (Guru-tattva)

4. Other Significant Commitments

Those considering Living Yoga Training, employment, residence at an Integral Yoga ashram or center, becoming an authorized representative, or comparable commitments should minimally receive the brief disclosure before making the commitment. Fuller information and an opportunity for conversation should be available to anyone who wishes to pursue them.

5. Additional Information for Those Who Want It

For individuals who wish to understand the history more fully, information could be offered progressively rather than requiring everyone to receive the same body of material.

A first additional resource could be Community Care and Transparency, which briefly places the historical acknowledgment within the larger context of Integral Yoga today and includes the traditional understanding of Guru-tattva.

Community Care and Transparency

Those wishing to go further could also read A Statement of Acknowledgment, Regret and Hope, which grew out of dialogue among members of the Integral Yoga community seeking a way to acknowledge this history, express regret for past responses, and support greater understanding and care going forward.

A Statement of Acknowledgment, Regret and Hope

The organizations' official letters containing the complete Joint Statement remain available for anyone who wishes to read the formal organizational record concerning the 2023 lawsuit.

2026 settlement letter — Satchidananda Ashram–Yogaville

2026 settlement letter — Integral Yoga Institute of New York

Understanding the Guru Principle may also be helpful to those interested in a deeper understanding of Guru-tattva, Guru bhakti, and Sri Gurudev's continuing role within the Integral Yoga Tradition.

Understanding the Guru Principle

Someone should also be available to speak with individuals who have questions or concerns. The choice of whether to pursue further information or conversation should remain with the individual.

6. A Community Statement Rather Than an Institutional Position

The Statement of Acknowledgment, Regret and Hope emerged from the work of the Community Renewal Group. It is offered as a community statement, not as an official statement of Satchidananda Ashram–Yogaville governing bodies, nor as an expression of the unanimous position of the worldwide Integral Yoga community.

Integral Yoga centers, groups, or individuals who feel that it expresses their own understanding may choose to affirm or use it. This allows communities that wish to make a fuller acknowledgment to do so without requiring every center, governing body, or individual to take precisely the same position.

7. Possible Website Placement

A simple way to make these materials available without making them the focus of each program would be to place a link at the end of each Integral Yoga center's Code of Conduct page or comparable ethics page. The link could read “Community Care and Transparency.”

Community Care and Transparency — shareable CDP page

That page can also direct readers to the Statement of Acknowledgment, Regret and Hope, the complete 2026 settlement letters, and resources explaining the Guru principle.

Statement of Acknowledgment, Regret and Hope

Official 2026 settlement letters and Joint Statement

This creates a proportionate pathway: brief context first, fuller community acknowledgment and spiritual understanding available as desired, the formal record accessible to those who wish to read it, and conversation available when needed.

Purpose of This Approach

The aim is neither to conceal difficult history nor to make that history the defining lens through which people encounter Integral Yoga.

A contextual approach allows Integral Yoga to be transparent where transparency is genuinely relevant, especially before significant commitments, while respecting the different ways members of the community understand the past and the different ways newcomers may wish to engage with it.

It provides people with enough information to make informed choices, fuller resources if they want them, and an opportunity for conversation when needed, without requiring disclosure in settings where it serves no meaningful purpose.