Teacher Training Disclosure and Informed Choice

Suggested guidance for Centers and Teacher Trainers. Community-developed recommendations, not an institutional policy.

Teacher Training involves a significant commitment of time, energy, and tuition. It may also lead someone to become an authorized teacher and representative of the Integral Yoga Tradition. For that reason, some prospective trainees may consider this history important when deciding whether to enroll.

The purpose of this guidance is not to make this history a central focus of Teacher Training. It is to offer a suggested approach to fairness, transparency, and informed choice before a prospective trainee makes the commitment to enroll.

1. Recommended Approach

We recommend that a brief factual disclosure be included in the Teacher Training application or enrollment materials before registration and payment are finalized. This allows applicants to receive the information before making the commitment, while avoiding the need to introduce the subject as a dramatic verbal disclosure during an open house or the training itself. If applicants wish to ask questions or receive fuller information, that opportunity should be available.

Suggested Disclosure Language

The Community Dharma Project offers two complete versions of its Recommended Disclosure. The shorter version could be included in the application or enrollment materials:

> 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.

A longer alternative, Recommended Disclosure with Guru-tattva Context, provides additional spiritual context. It should be offered as a complete version rather than as selected additions to the shorter one.

Read both complete Recommended Disclosure versions

The enrollment materials could then add:

> Those who would like additional information or would like to discuss this history are welcome to contact the Center Director or Teacher Training Coordinator before enrollment. Additional written materials are also available upon request.

2. Additional Information for Those Who Request It

If an applicant asks for more information, the response can be proportionate. The person does not need to receive every document at once, yet fuller information should be available when requested.

A first additional resource could be Community Care and Transparency, which places this history within the larger context of Integral Yoga today, ethical responsibility, and respect for the different ways people may relate to Swami Satchidananda.

Community Care and Transparency (CDP-hosted copy)

Those who wish to go further could also read A Statement of Acknowledgment, Regret and Hope.

A Statement of Acknowledgment, Regret and Hope (CDP-hosted copy)

If information about the lawsuit is requested, the formal organizational letters that contain the Joint Statement can also be shared. The Joint Statement should be shared in its entirety.

Official 2026 settlement letters and Joint Statement

This approach keeps the primary disclosure simple while making fuller information and conversation available to those for whom it is important.

3. If Disclosure Is Not Provided Before Enrollment

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.

4. Suggested Guidance for Centers and Teacher Trainers

Centers and Trainers may differ in how they approach this subject. The Community Dharma Project encourages them to consider a consistent approach to informed choice and fair treatment of prospective trainees.

We recommend providing the brief factual disclosure before enrollment. Where advance disclosure is not offered, centers could consider a written safeguard addressing future enrollments, with terms established and communicated by each center.

This guidance offers a practical approach to informed choice without making this history a recurring or defining feature of Teacher Training.