

Principles

Principle 1

Respect for the Dignity of all Persons and Peoples

Respect for the dignity of persons provides a foundation for many other ethical principles. It is intended to recognize the inherent worth of all human beings. This includes respect for peoples, since all human beings belong to unique societies, which create human interdependence, contribute to identity, and establish the connection of all human beings to all other human beings, including past and future generations. It is recognized that a relationship of respect and caring for the natural environment is also essential for the well being and survival of humans individually and collectively.

To practice the principle of *Respect for All Persons and Peoples*, RCCs will:

Generally

- 1) Demonstrate respect for the unique worth and inherent dignity of all human beings.
- 2) Use language in all communications that conveys respect for persons and peoples.
- 3) Avoid derogatory comments about individuals or groups, including demeaning jokes based on characteristics such as ethnic and cultural background, gender, class, age, sex, sexual orientation, nationality, colour, race, religion, marital status, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic status, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition or status.
- 4) Abstain from all forms of harassment.
- 5) Refuse to participate in practices disrespectful of the right 229.46 reW* nBT1 156.86

- 15) Where the client is not capable of informed consent to treatment, interact with the legally designated substitute decision maker in such a way as to promote the greatest degree of self realization for the client.
- 16) Engage in mutual and ongoing negotiation with respect to therapeutic processes.
- 17) Ensure the privacy and confidentiality of client information in accordance with legal principles and professional standards.
- 18) Engage in appropriate consultation and supervision.
- 19) Respect the client's cultural customs and beliefs.
- 20) If the values of the RCC conflict with those of the client to the extent that the RCC doubts his or her ability to be unbiased, communicate about the values differences and offer the option of referral to another counsellor.

Privacy

Respect for Other
Individuals

21)

objective information about the activities and the harm, and where these activities have come to their attention outside of a confidential client relationship. Action may include reporting to the appropriate regulatory body, authority, or committee for action, depending upon the RCC's judgment as to what is appropriate to offset the harm, and upon regulatory requirements for the body in question.

- 17) Collaborate and consult with other professionals as needed.
- 18) Act to minimize any negative impact of their research activities on research participants.
- 19) As far as possible, correct or offset harmful effects that occur in connection with research, professional practice or extra-professional activities.

Principle 3

Integrity in Relationships

Ethics and values are largely expressed in the relationships that RCCs have with self and with others. To have ethical integrity they remain aware of their values and the values of their communities. They are honest and straightforward in their communications, honestly assess and seek feedback on their performance, and avoid conflicts of interest that may compromise their professional activities.

To practice the principle of *Integrity in Relationships*, RCCs will:

Generally

- 1) Aspire to the highest integrity possible in every situation.
- 2) Accept responsibility for the consequences of their actions.
- 3) Avoid the exploitation of others for personal, professional or financial gain.
- 4) Avoid conflicts of interest when possible, declare the conflict of interest when it is inappropriate to avoid, and take measures to avoid adverse effects of conflict of interest.
- 5) Strive for impartiality in all professional endeavours.

Communicating in Integrity

- 6) Commit to truthfulness and accuracy in communications.
- 7) Avoid incomplete disclosure of information unless complete disclosure is culturally inappropriate or violates the confidentiality of others, or carries the potential to do serious harm to individuals, families, groups or communities.
- 8) Use best judgment in accepting gifts or other benefits, considering the situation, diagnosis, motivation, and vulnerability of the client. Gifts or benefits from clients should be infrequent and of minimal value and not compromise the professional relationship.

Connecting with clients

- 9) Accurately state the nature of their training to clients.
- 10) Where the needs of the client exceed the ability to be of professional service, offer an appropriate referral.
- 11) Where the RCC is aware, or ought to be aware that the RCC's own personal issues, attitudes or stresses are interfering, or are likely to interfere with the RCC's ability to be of professional assistance refrain from beginning or continuing a professional relationship with a client.
- 12)

Relationship as a
conscious undertaking

- 13) If it becomes necessary to limit, suspend or terminate treatment, assist the client to obtain the services of another qualified professional.
- 14) Not exploit or allow their professional relationships to be exploited in order to further personal, political or business interests at the expense of the best interests of the RCC, their clients, research participants, students, employers, or others.
- 15) Avoid beginning or continuing a professional relationship where they are aware, or should be aware, that harm may occur as a result of a current or previous psychological, familial, social, sexual, emotional, financial, supervisory, political, administrative or legal relationship with the client or a relevant person associated with or related to the client.
- 16) Avoid dual relationships or the perception of a dual relationship in

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The following documents were referenced:

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