







As members of the BCACC, Registered Clinical Counsellors (RCCs) commit that they:

1. Adhere to the Code of Ethical Conduct, Standards of Clinical Practice, and appropriate application of guidelines.
2. Assess the ethical aspects of their practices on an on-going basis.
3. Discuss ethical issues with supervisors and colleagues.
4. Bring new ethical issues and questions to the attention of the BCACC.
5. Address perceived unethical behaviour of colleagues in an appropriate manner, which, where appropriate, emphasizes remedial clarification and education.
6. Accept and consider feedback with respect to their own actions and perceived unethical behaviour, taking steps to resolve the situation.
7. Cooperate with duly constituted BCACC committees that are concerned with ethics or ethical conduct.
- 8.

# USING THE CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

In navigating difficult ethical issues, going through a careful process such as the one contained in the \_\_\_\_\_ is normally appropriate.

The Code of Ethical Conduct is based upon five fundamental ethical principles.

- \_\_\_\_\_ : Respect for the Dignity of All Persons  
\_\_\_\_\_ Respect for the Dignity of all Peoples
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Responsible Caring
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Integrity in Relationships
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Responsibility to Society

These principles are intended to reflect a general, commonly understood, and universal moral framework. They are expected practice for all Registered Clinical Counsellors (RCC) and Approved Clinical Supervisors (RCC-ACS), though the behavioural applications of these principles may vary somewhat in the context of different individual, relational, familial, and cultural beliefs and expectations. Regardless of context, practices that cause harm to persons and peoples are unacceptable.

The five fundamental principles should always be considered in consistent ethical decision making. However, occasions will arise where the principles conflict. A mandated order of importance is impossible given the complex nature of most ethical issues. As a general guide:

*Principle I: Respect for the Dignity of All Persons* should be given the highest weight unless there is a clear and imminent danger to the physical safety of any person. Clients or patients are to have access to unencumbered respect for their dignity as a person served in clinical counselling.





RCCs practice with:

ongoing informed consent for services and actions affecting a client,

respect for their wishes to involve others in the client's decision-making, and

the utmost integrity in conducting assessments and rendering professional opinions that may affect their legal or civil rights.

RCCs take appropriate action to address differences in values and beliefs with client(s) that impact the RCC's ability to be unbiased and/or the client(s)' therapeutic outcomes through truthful communication and referral.

RCCs orient their course of care around the client's emerging choices





respect for human and cultural diversity, equity, and inclusion, and

the provision of safe environments in which the therapeutic relationship is one of growth and not harm.

RCCs practice awareness of their own social, cultural, emotional, spiritual, physical, and financial condition or status, recognizing where these characteristics are empowering and/or divergent from those of a client, and protect against the potential for harm that may arise from these differences.

RCCs impose no stereotyping or bias regarding gender, culture, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status or ability that interrupts the individual's expression of self. A client's relational, sociologic and cultural context is defined and contextualized by them first and foremost as individuals, then explored with the RCC as an element of their lived experience and outer world.

RCCs commit to the respect and dignity of peoples as a fundamental A

# RESPONSIBLE CARING

Responsible caring means that all interactions involving clients are made for the client's benefit and for the protection of the public. This includes thorough assessment and possessing/demonstrating competence appropriate to the situation, the client, and the socio-cultural context.

RCCs engage in self-

# 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

RCCs:

- recognize the power differentials that exist in counselling relationships,

- actively comply with client requests for referral, offer appropriate client referral upon limitation, suspension, or termination of treatment, and

- obtain professional guidance, supervision, and assistance to manage increased risk of boundary crossing/violations and multiple relationships.

## RESPONSIBILITY TO SOCIETY

RCCs have a responsibility to the society in which they live and work and have dedicated themselves to the wellbeing of human beings in that society.

RCCs strive to embody responsibility to society through:

- accountability to values and ethical principles of the profession, and

- contribution to equitable and fair access to quality counselling care.

RCCs demonstrate ethical knowledge and awareness by understanding the statutory, regulatory, and common law frameworks of the profession.

RCCs:

- develop and maintain awareness of their ethical responsibilities and individual competence, and

- evaluate their professional practice activities and those of their colleagues, students, interns and supervisees as appropriate.

