

Code of Ethics

Introduction

This Code of Ethics for SUPPORT - Center for Youth Counseling provides a set of guiding principles and standards for the organization's staff, volunteers, and stakeholders. It is essential that all members of our community adhere to these ethical guidelines to ensure the consistent provision of high-quality services and to maintain the trust and confidence of those we serve.

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I. Core Values

The following core values shall guide our actions and decision-making:

1. **Respect:** Treat every individual with dignity, understanding, and appreciation for their unique experiences and perspectives.
2. **Integrity:** Act honestly, transparently, and responsibly in all aspects of our work.
3. **Confidentiality:** Protect the privacy and confidentiality of our clients, respecting their rights to control the disclosure of their personal information.
4. **Empathy:** Foster a supportive environment that prioritizes understanding and compassion in all interactions.
5. **Collaboration:** Work collectively and cooperatively with clients, their families, and other stakeholders to provide the best possible services and outcomes.
6. **Professionalism:** Maintain the highest level of competence, continuously seeking opportunities to enhance our skills and knowledge.
7. **Inclusivity:** Embrace diversity and promote an inclusive environment that values the contributions of all individuals, regardless of their background, culture, or identity.



II. Ethical Responsibilities

A. Responsibilities to Clients

1. Prioritize the best interests and well-being of the clients in all decisions and actions.
2. Provide professional, culturally competent, and evidence-based services that are tailored to the unique needs of each client.
3. Maintain appropriate boundaries to prevent conflicts of interest or exploitation.
4. Obtain informed consent from clients and/or their legal guardians before providing services, disclosing any potential risks or benefits.
5. Recognize and address any personal biases or limitations that may impact the provision of services.

B. Responsibilities to the Organization

1. Uphold the mission, vision, and values of SUPPORT - Center for Youth Counseling.
2. Actively contribute to the growth and development of the organization, seeking opportunities for continuous improvement and innovation.
3. Ensure the responsible use and stewardship of resources, including time, finances, and organizational assets.
4. Maintain accurate and comprehensive records to document the services provided and to support decision-making and evaluation.
5. Promote a safe, supportive, and inclusive work environment that fosters teamwork and mutual respect.

C. Responsibilities to the Community

1. Engage in advocacy efforts to promote awareness and understanding of the issues facing the youth we serve.
2. Collaborate with community partners and stakeholders to address systemic challenges and barriers impacting our clients.
3. Act as responsible and ethical representatives of the organization when interacting with the public and other professionals.
4. Contribute to the development of public policy and practice through research, education, and collaboration.
5. Uphold the highest ethical standards in all interactions, maintaining the trust and confidence of the community.

III. Implementation and Accountability

1. All members of the SUPPORT - Center for Youth Counseling community are expected to adhere to this Code of Ethics and to actively promote its principles and values.
2. Concerns or potential violations of the Code of Ethics should be reported promptly to a supervisor, manager, or designated ethics officer.
3. The organization will investigate reported concerns and take appropriate action to address violations, including disciplinary measures, retraining, or referral to external authorities.
4. The Code of Ethics will be reviewed periodically to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in guiding the ethical conduct of our organization.