

ETHICS FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

— ESSENTIAL ETHICAL & LEGAL ISSUES —



Navigating the Road of Ethical Requirements

PROGRAM/LECTURE

Ethics: Codes for Counselors

- Principles that Form Ethical Practices. Ethical Standards – Conflicts with the Law? Codes and Enforcement. Duty to the Client – When Does It Begin?
- Scope of Competence. Objectivity and Subjectivity—Let's be Real! Honesty and Ethics.

Psychopathology Of Unethical Behavior

- Moral Disengagement. Social-Cognitive Model of Unethical Behavior.

Diversity and Culture

- Cultural Groups: Geography, Culture, Gender, Spirituality, Parental Status, Homeless Persons, Substance Users, Language, Disability, Sexual Orientation (LGBTQ), Age, Incarcerated Persons, and / or Profession(s). Diversity, Freedom of Inquiry. Microaggressions and Marginalizations. Diversity and Inclusion.

Technology and Counseling

- Online Therapy, Online Therapy – HIPAA, Online Therapy – Disclosures. Licensing Boards Issue Warnings. Regulations of Telehealth / Online Therapy.
- Telemedicine: Counseling / Therapy. Social Media Policies. Personal Blogs and Self-Disclosure. Clients Google You! You Google Clients?

Consent and Therapy

- Managing the Risks of Counseling. Consent and Therapy. Informed Consent vs. Required Disclosure Statements. Consent vs. Authorization. Authorization Forms.
- Consent to Treat Minors. Counseling Approaches Needing Specific Consent. Breaches of Confidentiality.

Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment

- Assessments: Clinical Purposes. Assessments and Culture. Diagnosis Error – Reasons Why.
- Pathologizing Normal Behaviors. Counselor Care / Counselor Impairment.

Treatment Records: When, Where and How

- Treatment Records. HIPAA or No HIPAA. Keeping Treatment Records – How Much?
- "Psychotherapy Notes" and "Psychotherapy Records." Patient Treatment Records and Ownership.
- Records – Removal of Information. Amending / Correcting Records. Treatment Records – Providing a Summary. Records – Stolen, Lost or Destroyed.

Clinical Relationships

- Needs Being Met. Dual / Multiple Relationships. Contact with Clients Between Sessions.
- Attendance at Significant Events. Gifts—To and From. Hugs and Other Forms of Touching.
- Bartering With a Client. Fees / Collections. Termination / Abandonment.

Family, Couples, and Minors

- Know the Risks. Treating a Couple. Conflicts: Treating Multiple Members of a Family. Treating Children.
- Parental Rights to Access a Child's Record. Conflicting Requests. The Unexpected Caller.

Mandatory Reporting – What, When, Why

- Mandatory Reporting – Overview. Child Abuse Reporting. Neglect. Emotional Abuse of Children. Elder Abuse. Suicide / Self-Harm.

Challenges – Reportable or Not?

- Domestic Violence. Emancipation of a Minor. Child Abuse (Minor to Minor).
- Minors and Consensual Sexual Intercourse. Pregnancy of a Minor.

Duty to Warn, Dangerous Patients and Crimes

- Tarasoff: Duty to Warn / Duty to Protect. Crimes and Confidentiality. Possession of Child Pornography.
- Gun and Other Violence—The Dangerous Client.

PROGRAM (cont.)

Ethics and Humor in Clinical Practice

- Theories and Definitions. Its Subjective Nature. Inappropriate Humor – Talker Beware.
- Humor's Benefits in the Healthcare Settings.

Ethics – Concluding Thoughts

- Theories of Ethical Decision Making. Avoiding Common Mistakes. Retiring / Volunteering / Leaving your Practice.

Seminar Schedule

Registration: 7:30 AM
Seminar Begins: 8:30 AM
Lunch Break: 1 hour (On your own)
Seminar Ends: 4:00 PM
Breaks: 15 minutes (Mid-morning & mid-afternoon)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants completing this course will be able to:

- 1) translate ethical codes from the intended purposes to clinical applications.
- 2) examine ethical obligations within the counseling profession.
- 3) identify commonly occurring ethical challenges and dilemmas in clinical practice.
- 4) interpret the necessary information/requirements for professional competence.
- 5) discuss the importance of diversity/cultural competence.
- 6) review the reasons for incorporating ethics into behavioral health practice.
- 7) define how ethics influences the decision-making process.
- 8) recognize the ability to apply useful and effective ethical-based interventions.
- 9) apply good judgment, sensitivity, and ethical guidelines to clinical practice.

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Samara C. Kezele Fritchman (LMHC, EJD, PhD) is a Washington State-licensed mental health counselor (LMHC), a national certified counselor (NCC) through NBCC (National Board for Certified Counselors), a Certified Employee Assistance Professional (CEAP), and a Critical Incident Responder as a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional.

Dr. Fritchman holds a doctoral degree (PhD) in educational psychology and an executive juris doctorate (EJD: a law degree for those individuals who do not intend to become practicing attorney) from Columbus University. In addition, she obtained a master's degree in counseling psychology from St. Martin's College, and has been in private practice for 30 years. In her professional career, Samara has provided consulting, counseling, and professional-development services. She has over 40 years of experience working with all levels of staff, spanning a variety of job classifications, ethnic backgrounds, and educational levels within a wide variety of industries providing consulting, counseling, and professional development services. Dr. Fritchman currently provides tele-therapy for Employee Assistant Programs (EAP).

Dr. Fritchman is the presenter of several INR programs: "Ethics/Legal Issues for Mental Health Professionals," "Suicide Assessment, Treatment & Management, and Collaborative Management with Health Professionals," and "Diversity and Cultural Competence." Samara's presentations are derived from her work with complex clients. Samara's "Ethics" program is one of the longest-running national ethics seminars in the United States. Samara's use of humor, relevant examples, and the ability to elicit lively audience interactions help make a tough subject fun and the day fly by.