



Southwest Certification Board

ETHICAL STANDARDS CERTIFIED PREVENTION SPECIALIST (CPS)

Principle 1: Non-Discrimination

The Principles of Ethics are a model of standards of exemplary professional conduct. These Principles of the Code of Ethical Conduct for Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS) express the professional's recognition of his/her responsibilities to the public, to service recipients, and to colleagues. They guide members in the performance of the professional responsibilities and express the basic tenets of ethical and professional conduct. The Principles call for commitment to honorable behavior, even at the sacrifice of personal advantage. These principles should not be regarded as limitations, the CPS should constantly strive. They are guided by core values and competencies that have emerged with the development of the field

Principle 1: Non-Discrimination

The CPS must not discriminate against their clients, the public, or others based on race, religion, age, sex, national ancestry, sexual orientation, or economic condition, or against persons with disabilities, including persons testing positive for the AIDS related virus. A CPS should broaden hi/her understanding and acceptance of cultural and individual differences, and in so doing render services and provided information sensitive to those differences.

Principle 2: Competence

The CPS shall provide competent professional service to all in keeping with SCB standards. The CPS will strive continually to improve personal competence and quality of service delivery and discharge professional responsibility to the best of his/her ability. Competence is derived from a synthesis of education and experience. The maintenance of competence requires a commitment to learning and professional improvement that must continue throughout the professional's life.

- a. The CPS should be diligent in discharging responsibilities. Diligence imposes the responsibility to render services carefully and promptly, to be thorough, and to observe applicable technical and ethical standards.
- b. Due care requires a CPS to plan and supervise adequately any professional activity for which he or she is responsible.
- c. A CPS should recognize limitations and boundaries of competencies and not use techniques or offer services outside of his/her competencies. Each professional is responsible for assessing the adequacy of his or her own competence for the responsibility to be assumed. When a CPS is aware of unethical conduct or practice on the part of an agency or prevention professional, he or she has an ethical responsibility to report the conduct or practices to appropriate authorities or to the public.

Principle 3: Integrity

To maintain and broaden public confidence; a CPS should perform all professional responsibilities with the highest sense of integrity. Integrity can accommodate the inadvertent error and the honest difference

of opinion. It cannot accommodate deceit or subordination of principle. Personal gain and advantage should not subordinate service and the public trust. All information should be presented fairly and accurately. Each CPS should document and assign credit to all contributing sources used in published material or public statements.

- a. The CPS should not misrepresent either directly or by implication professional qualification or affiliations.
- b. The CPS should not be associated directly or indirectly with any services or products in a way that is misleading or incorrect.
- c. The CPS should never make a false statement to SCB or any other disciplinary authority.

Principle 4: Nature of Service

Above all, the CPS shall do no harm to service recipients. Practices shall be respectful and non-exploitive. Services should protect the recipient from harm and the Professional and the profession from censure.

- a. Where there is evidence of child or other abuse the CPS shall report the evidence to the appropriate agency and follow up to ensure that appropriate action has been taken.
- b. Where there is evidence of impairment in a colleague or a service recipient, a CPS should be supportive of assistance or treatment.
- c. The CPS should recognize the effect of impairment on professional performance and should be willing to seek appropriate treatment for him/her.

Principle 5: Confidentiality

Confidential information acquired during service delivery shall be safeguarded from disclosure, including – but not limited to – verbal disclosure, unsecured maintenance of records or recording of an activity or presentations without appropriate releases.

Principle 6: Ethical Obligations for Community and Society

According to their conscience, a CPS should be proactive on public policy and legislative issues. The public welfare and the individual's right to services and personal wellness should guide the efforts of the CPS, who must adopt a personal and professional stance that promotes the well-being of all humankind.

I have read and understand the Code of Ethics for Certified Prevention Specialists. I will do the best of my ability to adhere to and honor this Code in my professional and personal dealings. As a CPS, I shall strive at all times to maintain the highest standards in all services I provide, valuing competency and integrity over expediency or ability, providing services only in those areas where my training and experience meet established standards. I shall always recognize that I have assumed a heavy social and vocational responsibility due to the intimate nature of my work, which touches the lives of other human beings.

I have read and agree to abide by these ethical standards.

SIGNATURE

DATE