

Ethics For Forensic Clinicians (Part I)

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Disclaimer: Not Giving Legal Advice

- Information presented in this seminar is intended for general informational purposes only, and is not legal advice. Legal advice depends on the specific facts and circumstances of each individual's situation. Information provided should not be construed as legal advice.



Goals & Objectives

1. Apply one or more principles from one's professional code of ethics to forensic treatment and / or assessment.
2. Apply one or more provisions from specialty guidelines to treatment and / or assessment of forensic populations.
3. Apply one or more statutes / administrative rules to treatment and / or assessment of forensic populations.

Defining Ethics

- What it's not:
 - Our feelings
 - Religion
 - Laws
 - What society “accepts”



Defining Ethics

- Principles and standards that govern a person's or group's behavior
- Rules of behavior based on ideas about what is good or bad, right or wrong
- A guiding philosophy



Defining Forensic Practice / Clinician



- Professional practice
- By *any* clinician
- Within *any* sub-discipline
- Applying knowledge of that discipline to the law
- To assist in addressing legal, contractual, or administrative matters
- In the case *at hand*

Ethics For Forensic Clinicians



Principles, guiding philosophies, and rules of behavior for forensic clinicians (i.e., those applying knowledge to the law to assist in legal, contractual, or administrative matters).

Laws, Rules, and Codes

	Laws	Adm. Rules & Regs.	Codes of Conduct
Who Creates?	Legislators	Administrative Agencies	Professional groups and organizations
Who Must Follow?	Everyone in the covered jurisdiction	Licensees and supervisees	Members
Consequences of Violation?	Criminal conviction	Fines, Reprimands, Suspensions, Revocation of License	Censure, expulsion from membership

Laws, Rules, and Codes



Laws, Rules, and Codes

- There is much overlap between laws, administrative rules, and professional codes of conduct.
- Each may cite to the other.
- Administrative rules, for example, are written statements of law adopted by an administrative agency pursuant to authority granted by the General Assembly to carry out the policies and intent of a statute enacted by the General Assembly

Ethics Codes

- Psychologists
- Psychiatrists
- Social Workers

Specialty Guidelines

- Psychologists
- Psychiatrists
- Social Workers

Statutes / Rules

- Psychologists
- Psychiatrists
- Social Workers

Application to Case Examples



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