

Code of Ethics

Washington Speech and Hearing Association
Revised 1992

PREAMBLE

The preservation of the highest standards of integrity and ethical principles is vital to the successful discharge of the professional responsibilities of all members. This Code has been promulgated by the Association in an effort to stress the fundamental rules considered essential to this basic purpose. All members shall abide by the WSHA Code of Ethics. Any act that is in violation of the spirit and purpose of this Code shall be considered unethical. Failure to specify any particular responsibility or practice in this Code should not be construed as denial of the existence of other responsibilities or practices.

The fundamental rules of ethical conduct are described in three categories: Principles of Ethics, Ethical Proscriptions, Matters of Professional Propriety.

1. PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS. Six Principles serve as a basis for the ethical evaluation of professional conduct and form the underlying moral basis for the Code of Ethics. Members must observe these principles as affirmative ethical obligations under all conditions of professional activity.
2. ETHICAL PROSCRIPTIONS. Ethical proscriptions are formal statements of prohibitions that are derived from the Principles of Ethics.
3. MATTERS OF PROFESSIONAL PROPRIETY Matters of professional propriety represent guidelines of conduct designed to promote the public interest and thereby better inform the public and particularly the persons in need of speech-language pathology and audiology services as to the availability and the rules regarding the delivery of those services.

PRINCIPLE OF ETHICS I

MEMBERS SHALL HOLD PARAMOUNT THE WELFARE OF PERSONS SERVED PROFESSIONALLY.

- A. Members shall use every resource available, including referral to other specialists as needed, to provide the best service possible.
- B. Members shall fully inform persons served of the nature and possible effects of the services.
- C. Members shall fully inform subjects participating in research or teaching activities of the nature and possible effects of these activities.
- D. Members' fees shall be commensurate with services rendered.
- E. Members shall provide appropriate access to records of persons served professionally.
- F. Members shall take all reasonable precautions to avoid injuring persons in the delivery of professional services.
- G. Members shall evaluate services rendered to determine effectiveness.

ETHICAL PROSCRIPTIONS

1. Members must not exploit persons in the delivery of professional services, including accepting persons for treatment when benefit cannot reasonably be expected or continuing treatment unnecessarily.
2. Members must not guarantee the results of any therapeutic procedures, directly or by implications. A reasonable statement of prognosis may be made, but caution must be exercised not to mislead persons served professionally to expect results that cannot be predicted from sound evidence.
3. Members must not use persons for teaching or research in a manner that constitutes invasion of privacy or fails to afford informed free choice to participate.
4. Members must not evaluate or treat speech or hearing disorders except in a professional relationship. They must not evaluate or treat solely by correspondence. This does not preclude follow up correspondence with persons previously seen, nor providing them with general information of an educational nature.
5. Members must not reveal to unauthorized persons any professional or personal information obtained from the person served professionally, unless required by law or unless necessary to protect the welfare of the person or the community.

6. Members must not discriminate in the delivery of professional services on any basis that is unjustifiable or irrelevant to the need for and potential benefit from such services, such as race, sex or religion.
7. Members must not charge for services not rendered.

PRINCIPLE OF ETHICS II

MEMBERS SHALL MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE.

- A. Members engaging independently in clinical practice shall possess appropriate credentials to practice in a particular employment setting in which they are providing or supervising professional services.
- B. Members shall continue their professional development throughout their careers.
- C. Members shall identify competent, dependable referral sources for persons served professionally.
- D. Members shall maintain adequate records of professional services rendered.

ETHICAL PROSCRIPTIONS

1. Members must neither provide services nor supervision of services for which they have not been properly prepared, nor permit services to be provided by any of their staff who are not properly prepared.
2. Members who have not completed professional preparation must not provide speech or hearing services except in a supervised clinical practicum as a part of training.
3. Member who do not hold appropriate credentials must not engage in practice. They must not provide service for which there is not direct on-site supervision by a person holding appropriate credentials covering the services provided by the supervised member.
4. Members must not delegate any services requiring the professional competence of an appropriately credentialed clinician.
5. Members must not provide clinical services by prescription of anyone who does not hold the appropriate credentials to provide such services.
6. Members must not offer clinical services by supportive personnel for whom they do not provide appropriate supervision and assume full responsibility.
7. Members must not require anyone under their supervision to engage in any practice that is a violation of the Code of Ethics, or that is illegal.

PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS III

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS TO PERSONS SERVED PROFESSIONALLY AND TO THE PUBLIC SHALL PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATURE AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS, AND ABOUT THE PROFESSION AND SERVICES RENDERED BY ITS PRACTITIONERS.

ETHICAL PROSCRIPTIONS

1. Members must not misrepresent their training or competence.
2. Members' public statements providing information about professional services and products must not contain representations or claims that are false, deceptive or misleading.
3. Members must not use professional or commercial affiliation in any way that would mislead or limit services to persons served professionally.

MATTERS OF PROFESSIONAL PROPRIETY

1. Members should announce services in a manner consonant with highest professional standards in the community.
2. Members should provide accurate information to the consumer about the profession and services provided. They shall not use, or participate in the use of any form of communication containing a false, fraudulent, misleading, deceptive, self-laudatory or unfair statement or claim.
3. Information about the profession:
 - a) Members should endeavor to educate the public to an awareness of the speech and hearing profession.
 - b) Preparation of professional articles for non-medical publications and participation in seminars, lectures, and civic programs should be

motivated by a desire to educate the public about services offered by members and to provide information relevant to the selection of the most appropriate member rather than to obtain publicity for the particular member.

- c) A paid advertisement must be identified as such unless it is apparent from the context that it is a paid advertisement. If the paid advertisement is communicated to the public by the use of radio, it shall be prerecorded, approved by the member, and a recording of the actual transmission shall be retained by the member.

PRINCIPLE OF ETHICS IV

MEMBERS SHALL MAINTAIN OBJECTIVITY IN ALL MATTERS CONCERNING THE WELFARE OF PERSONS SERVED PROFESSIONALLY.

Members who dispense products to persons served professionally shall observe the following standards:

1. Products associated with professional practice must be dispensed to the person served as a part of a program of comprehensive habilitative care.
2. Fees established for professional services must be independent of whether a product is dispensed.
3. Persons served must be provided freedom of choice for the source of services and products.
4. Price information about professional services rendered and products dispensed must be disclosed by providing to or posting for persons served a complete schedule of fees and charges in advance of rendering services, which schedule differentiates between fees for professional services and charges for products dispensed.
5. Products dispensed to the person served must be evaluated to determine effectiveness.

ETHICAL PROSCRIPTIONS

1. Members must not participate in activities that constitute a conflict of professional interest.

MATTERS OF PROFESSIONAL PROPRIETY

1. Members should not accept compensation for supervision or sponsorship from the clinician being supervised or sponsored.
2. Members should present products they have developed to their colleagues in a manner consonant with highest professional standards.

PRINCIPLE OF ETHICS V

MEMBERS SHALL HONOR THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PUBLIC, THEIR PROFESSION, AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS with COLLEAGUES AND MEMBERS OF ALLIED PROFESSIONS.

MATTERS OF PROFESSIONAL PROPRIETY

1. Members should seek to provide and expand services to persons with speech, language and hearing disabilities, as well as to assist in establishing high professional standards for such programs.
2. Members should educate the public about speech, language and hearing processes, speech, language and hearing problems, and matters related to professional competence.
3. Members should strive to increase knowledge within the profession and share research with colleagues.
4. Members should establish harmonious relations with colleagues and members of other professions, and endeavor to inform members of related professions of services provided by speech-language pathologists and audiologists, as well as seek information from them.
5. Members should assign credit to those who have contributed to a publication in proportion to their contribution.

PRINCIPLE OF ETHICS VI

MEMBERS SHALL UPHOLD THE DIGNITY OF THE PROFESSION AND FREELY ACCEPT THE PROFESSION'S SELF-IMPOSED STANDARDS.

- A. Members shall inform the Ethics Committee for violations of this Code of Ethics.
- B. Members shall cooperate fully with the Ethics Committee inquiries into matters of professional conduct related to the Code of Ethics.

Matters or questions concerning the WSHA CODE OF ETHICS are considered by the Ethics Committee. Please address correspondence concerning ethical practice to:

Washington Speech and Hearing Association

Attention: Ethics Committee

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