

CODE OF ETHICS

WE DO AFFIRM

That in the practice of our profession, we shall assert the ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, and justice as a guide to our professional conduct.

That we shall not discriminate against clients or professionals based on race, religion, age, gender, disability, national ancestry, sexual orientation or economic condition.

That we shall espouse objectivity and integrity, and maintain the highest standards in the services we offer.

That we recognize that the profession is founded on national standards of competency which promote the best interests of society, of the client, of ourselves, and of the profession as a whole. We also recognize the need for ongoing education as a component of professional competency.

That we shall uphold the legal and accepted moral codes which pertain to professional conduct.

That we shall honestly respect the limits of present knowledge in public statements concerning alcoholism and other forms of drug addiction.

That we shall respect the integrity and protect the welfare of the person or persons served.

That we shall embrace, as a primary obligation, the duty of protecting client's rights and will not disclose confidential information acquired in teaching, practice or investigation without appropriately executed consent.

That we shall safeguard the integrity of the counseling relationship and shall ensure that the client has reasonable access to effective treatment.

That we shall treat colleagues with respect, courtesy and fairness, and will afford the same to other professionals.

That we shall establish financial arrangements in professional practice and in accord with the professional standards that safeguard the best interests of the client first, and then the counselor, the agency, and the profession.

That we shall to the best of our ability actively engage in the legislative processes, educational institutions, and the general public to change policy and legislation to make possible opportunities and the choice of service for all human beings of any ethnic or social background whose lives are impaired by alcoholism or other drug abuse.

That we shall share these ethical principles, to which we are beholden, with persons served at their orientation.

That we shall vigorously investigate alleged violations of this code of ethics. If allegations are proven against a person who is bound to uphold these affirmations, action will be taken through the appropriate formal channels established by the organization.