

PROFESSIONAL CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR PREVENTION SPECIALISTS

The practice of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention is based on shared knowledge, skills, and values. The following ethical standards shall govern the professional's daily involvement in prevention activities and emphasize the professional concern for the rights and interests of the consumer/client:

RESPONSIBILITIES

Prevention Specialists have a responsibility to maintain objectivity, integrity, and the highest standards in delivering prevention services. Prevention Specialists shall:

- Operate at the highest level of honesty and professionalism and will strive to deliver high quality services, holding the best interest of the public first.
- Recognize their primary obligation to promote the health and well being of individuals, families, and communities in order to prevent chemical abuse and dependency.
- Recognize their personal competence and not operate beyond their skill or training level and be willing to refer to another individual or program when appropriate.
- Be committed to upgrading their knowledge and skills through ongoing education and training.
- Understand and appreciate different cultures and demonstrate sensitivity to cultural differences in professional practices.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Prevention Specialist shall not discriminate against individuals, the public, or others in the delivery of services on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, ancestry, age or against persons with disabilities.

Prevention Specialists shall not engage in any behavior involving professional conduct that encourages, condones, or promotes discrimination; and, will strive to protect the rights of individuals.

ADHERENCE TO STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS AND RULES

Prevention Specialists shall protect client rights and insure confidentiality by adhering to all state and federal laws and rules. Prevention Specialists:

- Will not participate in or condone any illegal activity, including the use of illegal chemicals, or the possession, sale or distribution of illegal chemicals.
- Shall not participate in, condone, or be an accessory to dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.
- Will adhere to mandatory reporting procedures related to abuse, neglect, or misconduct by individuals and/or agencies in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.
- Shall assume responsibility to report the incompetent and unethical practices of other professionals.

PERSONAL CONDUCT AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY

Prevention Specialists shall have a responsibility to model and promote a healthy life style and well being by low risk or no use of alcohol, tobacco, and/or other mood-altering chemicals. In addition, Prevention Specialists have a responsibility to maintain sound, mental health to prevent the impairment of professional judgment and performance. Prevention Specialists:

- Will not exhibit gross incompetence, unprofessional, or dishonorable conduct or any other act that would be a substantial deviation from the standards ordinarily possessed by professional peers.
- Shall not fail to recognize the personal boundaries and limitations of their professional competence and practice by offering services beyond the scope of their personal competencies or expertise.

- Will utilize resources for support, growth, and professional development.
- Will strive to maintain and promote the integrity of certification within the State of South Dakota, nationally and internationally, and the advancement of the Prevention Specialist Profession

PUBLIC WELFARE

Prevention Specialists will maintain an objective, non-possessive relationship with those they serve and not exploit them sexually, financially, or emotionally. Prevention Specialists:

- Will actively discourage any dependency upon themselves for the personal satisfaction of any physical, psychological, emotional, or spiritual need.
- Shall accurately represent their qualifications and affiliations.
- Shall discontinue services when they are no longer appropriate and will refer the public to programs or individuals with the client's welfare as the primary consideration.
- Shall not impede an individual's access to competent, professional care.
- Will respect the rights and views of other professionals and agencies and should treat colleagues with respect, courtesy, and fairness.
- Will not promote personal gain or the profit of an agency or commercial enterprise of any kind.
- Will adhere to professional remuneration and financial arrangement practices and standards that safeguard the best interests of the public and profession.

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Prevention Specialists will respect the limits of present knowledge and shall assign credit to all who have contributed to published materials, professional papers, videos/films, pamphlets, or books. Prevention Specialists will:

- Act to preserve the integrity of the profession by acknowledging and documenting any materials, techniques, or people used in creating their opinions, papers, books, etc.
- Adhere to copyright laws and seek approval for the use of such materials.

PUBLIC POLICY TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS CONTINUUM OF CARE

Prevention Specialists will take the initiative to support, promote, and improve the delivery of high quality services in the professional continuum of care (prevention, intervention, treatment, and aftercare). Prevention Specialists:

- Shall advocate for changes in public policy and legislation to afford opportunities and choices for all persons whose lives are impaired or impacted by the disease of alcoholism, tobacco use, and other drug abuse and addictions, promoting the well being of all human beings.
- Will actively participate in the public awareness of the effects of tobacco, alcoholism, and other drug addictions and should act to ensure all persons, especially the disadvantaged, have access to the necessary resources and services.

I hereby agree to the above Professional Code of Ethical Conduct and will uphold and promote the integrity of the profession by adhering to and reporting violations of the preceding Code of Ethical Conduct. I understand that violations of the principles will be grounds for disciplinary action and sanctions.

Signature of Prevention Specialist

Date