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# New Mexico Speech-Language Hearing Association Code of Ethics

Revised February 9, 2025

## **Preamble**

The preservation of the highest standards of integrity and ethical principles is vital to the responsible discharge of obligations in the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology. This Code of Ethics sets forth the fundamental principles and rules considered essential to this purpose.

Every individual who is (a) a member of the American Speech-language-Hearing Association, whether certified or not, (b) a nonmember who has met the requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the Association, (c) an applicant for membership or certification, or (d) a Clinical Fellow seeking to fulfill standards for certification shall abide by the Code of Ethics.

Any action that violates the spirit and purpose of this code shall be considered unethical. Failure to specify any particular responsibility or practice in this Code of Ethics shall not be construed as denial of the existence of such responsibilities or practices.

The fundamentals of ethical conduct are described by Principles of Ethics and by Rules of Ethics as they relate to responsibility to persons served, to the public, and to the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology.

Principles of Ethics, aspirational and inspirational in nature, form the underlying moral basis for the Code of Ethics. Individuals shall observe these principles as affirmative obligations under all conditions of professional activity.

Rules of Ethics are specific statements of minimally acceptable professional conduct or of prohibitions and are applicable to all individuals.

## **Principle of Ethics I**

Individuals shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve professionally.

### ***Rules of Ethics***

- A Individuals shall provide all services competently.
- B Individuals shall use every resource, including referral when appropriate, to ensure that high-quality service is provided.
- C Individuals shall not discriminate in the delivery of professional services or in the conduct of research and scholarly activities on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, age, citizenship, religion, national origin, including culture, language, and dialect, and accent, sexual orientation, gender identification, gender identity, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability.
- D Individuals shall fully inform the persons they serve of the nature and possible effects of services rendered and products dispensed.
- E Individuals shall evaluate the effectiveness of services rendered and of products dispensed and shall provide services or dispense products only when benefit can reasonably be expected.
- F Individuals shall not guarantee the results of any treatment or procedure, directly or by implication; however, they may make a reasonable statement of prognosis.
- G Individuals shall not evaluate or treat speech, language, or hearing disorders solely by correspondence.
- H Individuals shall maintain adequate records of professional services rendered and products dispensed and shall only allow access to these records when appropriately authorized.
- I Individuals shall not reveal, without authorization, any professional or personal information about the person served professionally, unless required by law to do so, or unless doing so is necessary to protect the welfare of the person or of the community.
- J Individuals shall not charge for services not rendered, nor shall they misrepresent, in any fashion, services rendered or products dispensed.
- K Individuals shall use persons in research or as subjects of teaching demonstrations only with their informed consent.
- L Individuals whose professional services are adversely affected by substance abuse or other health-related conditions shall seek professional assistance and, where appropriate, withdraw from the affected areas of practice.

## **Principle of Ethics II**

Individuals shall honor their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of professional competence.

### ***Rules of Ethics***

- A Individuals shall engage in the provision of clinical services only when they hold the appropriate Certificate of Clinical Competence or when they are in the certification process and are supervised by an individual who holds the appropriate Certificate of Clinical Competence.
- B Individuals shall engage in only those aspects of the profession that are within the scope of their competencies, considering their level of education, training, and experience.
- C Individuals shall continue their professional development throughout their careers.
- D Individuals shall delegate the provision of clinical services only to persons who are certified or to persons in the education or certification process who are appropriately supervised. The provision of support services may be delegated to persons who are neither certified nor in the certification process only when a certificate holder provides appropriate supervision.
- E Individuals shall prohibit any of their professional staff from providing services that exceed the staff member's competence considering the staff member's level of education, training, and experience.
- F Individuals shall ensure that all equipment used in the provision of services is in proper working order and is properly calibrated.

## **Principle of Ethics III**

Individuals shall honor their responsibility to the public by promoting public understanding of the professions, by supporting the development of services designed to fulfill the unmet needs of the public, and by providing accurate information in all communications involving any aspect of the professions.

### ***Rules of Ethics***

- A Individuals shall not misrepresent their credentials, competence, education, training, or experience.
- B Individuals shall not misrepresent the credentials of apprentices, assistants, technicians, support personnel, students, Clinical Fellows, or any others under their supervision, and they shall inform those they serve professionally Of the name and professional credentials of persons providing services.
- C Individuals shall not participate in professional activities that constitute a conflict of interest .
- D Individuals shall not misrepresent research, diagnostic information, services rendered, or products dispensed, or engage in any scheme or artifice to defraud in connection with obtaining payment or reimbursement for such services or products.
- E Individuals' statements to the public shall provide accurate information about the nature and management of communication disorders, about the professions, and about professional services.
- F Individuals' statements to the public - advertising, announcing, and marketing their professional services, reporting research results, and promoting products - shall adhere to prevailing professional standards and shall not contain misrepresentations.
- G Individuals shall refer those served professionally solely on the basis of the interest of those being referred and not on any personal interest, financial or otherwise.
- H Individuals shall not defraud or engage in any scheme to defraud in connection with obtaining payment, reimbursement, or grants for services rendered, products dispensed, or the effects of products dispensed.

## **Principle of Ethics IV**

Individuals shall honor their responsibilities to the professions and their relationships with colleagues, students, and members of other professions and disciplines.

### ***Rules of Ethics***

- A. Individuals shall uphold the dignity and autonomy of the professions, maintain harmonious interprofessional relationships, and accept the professions' self-imposed standards.
- B. Individuals shall prohibit anyone under their supervision from engaging in any practice that violates the Code of Ethics.
- C. Individuals shall not engage in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.
- D. Individuals shall not engage in any form of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment or power abuse.
- E. Individuals shall not engage in any other form of conduct that adversely reflects on the professions or the individual's fitness to serve persons professionally.
- F. Individuals shall not engage in sexual activities with clients, students, or research participants over whom they exercise professional authority or power.
- G. Individuals shall assign credit only to those who have contributed to a publication, presentation, or product. Credit shall be assigned in proportion to the contribution and only with the contributor's consent.
- H. Individuals shall reference the source when using other persons' ideas, research, presentations, or products in written, oral, or any other media presentation or summary.
- I. Individuals' statements to colleagues about professional services, research results, and products shall adhere to prevailing professional standards and shall contain no misrepresentations.
- J. Individuals shall not provide professional services without exercising independent professional judgment, regardless of referral source or prescription.
- K. Individuals shall not discriminate in their relationships with colleagues, members of other professions, or individuals under their supervision on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, gender identity/gender expression, genetic information, age, citizenship, religion, national origin, including culture, language, dialect, and accent, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, veteran status, or disability.
- L. Individuals shall not file or encourage others to file complaints that disregard or ignore facts that would disprove the allegation, nor should the Code of Ethics be used for personal reprisal, as a means of addressing personal animosity, or as a vehicle for retaliation.
- M. Individuals who have reason to believe that the Code of Ethics has been violated shall inform the Board of Ethics.
- N. Individuals shall comply fully with the policies of the Board of Ethics in its consideration and adjudication of complaints of violations of the Code of Ethics