

CODE OF ETHICS
OF
THE COLLEGE OF
PASTORAL SUPERVISION
AND PSYCHOTHERAPY

The College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy
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Prologue

The College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP) seeks to maintain the highest standards of professional ethics. Therefore members covenant to work together with colleagues, students, clients and institutions in an attitude characterized by respect, commitment and professionalism consistent with the CPSP Covenant.

Respect

Professional ethics for CPSP are rooted in respect for all persons regardless of their race, gender, religion, ethnic origin, age, abilities or sexual orientation. In other words, who they are is the reason for our respect. Members agree to commend the call, vocation and personal lives of co-workers, counselees, students, supervisees, and parishioners.

Members respect each other. When there is an allegation of misconduct, all responses will be intentional while maintaining an attitude characterized by forgiveness, humility, and an empowering love. All responses to allegations will focus on accountability, education, redemption, reconciliation, and growth. Respect includes issues of confidentiality. Therefore what we know about students,

colleagues and counsels will be used in their best interest.

Commitment

Members are committed and accountable to each other through Chapter participation. Therefore, members will be pro-active in issues of professional abilities, continuing education, pastoral concerns, ethics and personal integrity. This form of peer review is crucial to our covenant with each other.

Professionalism

CPSP members recognize those who have gone before us, endeavoring to preserve, create and implement the body of knowledge in the fields of pastoral education and counseling. CPSP members maintain professional relationships with other persons in their institutions, their community, and with members of other professional organizations.

Collegial Judgment

CPSP recognizes that not all ethical issues can be detailed through this or any other code. Therefore, we depend on the professional judgment of our colleagues and agree to abide by and to engage their decisions.

Practices

Respect

Colleagues, students, clients, parishioners, and patients deserve our respect. Therefore, members will not proselytize nor force their own theologies on others. CPSP members will refrain from exploiting relationships or using them to their own advantage. Exploitation includes emotional, financial, sexual, and/or social gain. Records, evaluations, personal notes, and informational conversations will be kept confidential.

Commitment

Members will maintain their commitment and good standing with their CPSP Chapters. Members will maintain good standing outside of CPSP, including faith groups, endorsing

agencies, licensing agencies, and employing institutions. CPSP members will take concerns of impairment, incompetence, or behavioral problems seriously. Concerns for such are expected to be addressed within each Chapter.

Professionalism

CPSP members will continue to use their Chapters, as well as other resources, for professional and personal growth. This includes attention to spiritual, family and health-related issues which are always significant to the professional functioning of members. CPSP members will represent their qualifications correctly, limiting their practice only to their level and area of certification. CPSP members will keep accurate financial and training records, will be accurate in professional brochures, and will make timely responses to inquiries and applications. “Stewardship” of our programs is the essential theological words. CPSP members have the freedom to share their private and public opinions, distinguishing these from the positions of CPSP.

CPSP Ethics Complaint Protocol

The CPSP community will maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct. Any incident of ethical violation, or presumed violation, will be processed in the following manner:

1. Any person with an ethical complaint against a person certified by CPSP will first inform the General Secretary or President of the violation in writing. If the General Secretary and President are both objects of the grievance, the complaint shall be filed with immediate Past President.
2. The officer receiving the complaint will immediately notify the Chapter Convener of the person against whom the complaint is registered. The Chapter convener, with the officer delivering the complaint, will decide if the complaint has merit. If the complaint is deemed without merit, the complainant will be notified to that effect. If the complaint is judged to have merit, it will be referred to the Chapter where the object of the complaint has credentials.
3. The Chapter on receiving the complaint will process it, interview the parties as needed, and make a judgment on any appropriate recompense or penalties required, and notify the complainant of such.
4. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Chapter’s judgment, he or she may again notify the General Secretary, or President, who will together create a Panel to review the complaint and the Chapter’s decision. The Panel may sustain the Chapter’s decision or overrule it and make its own decision, and notify the complainant.
5. The Panel’s decision may be appealed to the Executive Committee, and if the complainant is not satisfied, he or she may appeal next to the Governing Council. The decision of the Governing Council will be final.
6. The Person against whom the complaint is made may similarly appeal any decision to the Executive Committee, and next to the Governing Council. The decision of the Governing Council will be final.