

CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT (A.2)

To be read and signed by the applicant

Please print or type

Applicant: _____

Principle 1: Non-Discrimination - *The California Gambling Counselor Certification Board (CGCCB) shall affirm diversity and not discriminate against clients or professionals based on racial or ethnic background, religion/spiritual beliefs, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, political beliefs, treatment history, criminal justice history/status, or mental/physical disability and other cultural identities that are important to the client and:*

1. Avoid bringing personal or professional issues into the counseling relationship and guard the individual rights and personal dignity of clients through an awareness of the impact of stereotyping and discrimination.
2. Strive to treat all individuals with impartiality and objectivity based solely on their personal merits and mindful of the dignity of all human persons. As such, I shall not impose my personal values on my clients.
3. Relate to all clients with empathy and understanding no matter what their diagnosis or personal history and with acceptance and openness regardless of treatment history or criminal justice status or background.
4. Respect the right of others to hold opinions, beliefs, and values different from my own.

Principle 2: Responsibility - *The CGCCB shall espouse objectivity and integrity, and maintain the highest standards of service and:*

1. Assist in educating and helping others acquire knowledge and skills in dealing with pathological and problem gambling.
2. Accept the obligation, when supervising others, to facilitate professional development of these individuals by providing accurate and current information, timely evaluations, and constructive consultation.
3. Understand that most property in the healing professions is intellectual property and shall not present the ideas or formulations of others as if they were my own. Rather, I shall give appropriate credit to their originators both in written and spoken communication.
4. Regard the use of any copyrighted material without permission or the payment of royalty to be theft.
5. Maintain respect for institutional policies and management functions of agencies and institutions within which the services are being performed, but will take initiative toward improving such policies when it will better serve the interest of the client.

Principle 3: Competence – *The CGCCB shall recognize that the profession is founded on national standards of competency which promotes the best interests of society, the client, the counselor and of the profession as a whole. The CGCCB shall recognize the need for ongoing education as a component of professional competency and:*

1. Recognize boundaries and limitations of competencies and not offer services or use techniques outside of my professional competencies.
2. Maintain competence in the area of my practice through continuing education, constantly improving my knowledge and skills in those approaches most effective with my specific clients.
3. Recognize the effect of impairment on professional performance and be willing to seek appropriate treatment for myself or for a colleague. I shall support peer assistance programs in this respect.

Return this form (A2) DIRECTLY to:

California Gambling Counselor Certification Board
41690 Ivy Street, Suite A7 ♦ Murrieta, CA 92562
Phone (714) 765-5804 ♦ Fax (951) 266-0072

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Principle 4: Legal and Moral Standards - *The CGCCB shall uphold the legal and accepted moral codes which pertain to professional conduct; be aware of and follow those laws and regulations that are relevant both personally and professionally and:*

1. Make every attempt to be fully cognizant of all federal and state laws that pertain to the practice of counseling problem gamblers and their families.
2. Not claim either directly or by implication, professional qualifications or affiliations that I do not possess.
3. Understand that the determination that a law or regulation is unjust is not a matter of preference or opinion but a matter of rational investigation, deliberation, and dispute.
4. Understand that justice extends beyond individual relationships to the community and society; therefore, I shall participate in activities that promote the health of my community and profession.

Principle 5: Client Welfare - *The CGCCB understands that the primary professional responsibility and loyalty is to the welfare of the client and holds, as a primary guide, the client's best interests with regards to public health, safety, and welfare and:*

1. Take all measures to safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of client information except where the client has given specific, written, informed and limited consent or when the client poses a risk to self or others.
2. Terminate counseling and consulting relationship when it is reasonably clear to the counselor that the client is not benefiting from the relationship.
3. Take care to provide services in an environment which will ensure the privacy and safety of the client at all times and ensures the appropriateness of service delivery and disclose the code of ethics, professional loyalties, and responsibilities to all clients.
4. Hold the welfare of the client paramount when making any decisions or recommendations concerning referral, treatment procedures or termination of treatment.
5. Not do for others what they can readily do for themselves but rather, facilitate and support the doing. Likewise, I shall not insist on doing what I perceive as good without reference to what the client perceives as good and necessary.

Principle 6: Client Relationship - *The CGCCB shall be responsible to safeguard the integrity of the counseling relationship and respect the fundamental human right of all individuals to self-determination and to make decisions that they consider in their own best interest. The counselor shall be open and clear about the nature, extent, probable effectiveness, and cost of those services to allow each individual to make an informed decision of their care and:*

1. Inform the client and obtain the client's agreement in areas likely to affect the client's participation including the recording of an interview, the use of interview material for training purposes, and/or observation of an interview by another person.
2. Not engage in professional relationships or commitments that conflict with family members, friends, close associates, or others whose welfare might be jeopardized by such a dual relationship.
3. Not exploit relationships with current or former clients for personal gain, including social or business relationships.
4. Not, under any circumstances, engage in sexual behavior with current or former clients and not accept as a client anyone with whom I have engaged in sexual behavior.

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5. Because a relationship begins with a power differential, I shall not exploit relationships with current or former clients for personal gain, including social or business relationships.
6. Not accept substantial gifts from clients, other treatment organizations, or the providers of materials or services used in my practice.

Principle 7: Confidentiality - *The CGCCB shall work in the best interest of the client and embrace the duty of protecting the client's rights under confidentiality and not disclose confidential information acquired in teaching, practice, or investigation without appropriately executed consent and:*

1. Provide the client their rights regarding confidentiality, in writing, as part of informing the client in any areas likely to affect the client's confidentiality. This includes the recording of the clinical interview, the use of material for insurance purposes, and the use of material for training or observation by another party.
2. Make appropriate provisions for the maintenance of confidentiality and the ultimate disposition of confidential records. I shall ensure that the data obtained is necessary and appropriate to services being provided and secured by the available security methodology.
3. Adhere to all federal and state laws regarding confidentiality and the counselor's responsibility to report information in specific circumstances to the appropriate authorities.
4. Understand that the right of confidentiality cannot always be maintained if it serves to protect abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any person or leaves another at risk of bodily harm.
5. Use clinical and other material in teaching and/or writing only when there is no identifying information about the parties involved.

Principle 8: Remuneration - *The CGCCB shall establish financial arrangements in professional practice and in accord with the standards that safeguards the best interests of the client, of the counselor and of the profession and:*

1. Carefully consider the ability of the client to meet the financial cost in establishing rates for professional services.
2. Not send or receive any commission or rebate or any other form of remuneration for referral of clients for professional services nor will I engage in fee splitting.
3. Not use my personal relationship with clients to promote personal gain or profit of my agency or commercial enterprise of any kind.

Principle 9: Preventing Harm - *The CGCCB understands that every decision and action has ethical implication leading either to benefit or harm, and shall carefully consider whether any decisions or actions has the potential to produce harm of a physical, psychological, financial, legal, or spiritual nature before implementing them and:*

1. Refrain from using any methods that could be considered coercive such as threats, negative labeling, and attempts to provoke shame or humiliation.
2. Make no requests of clients that are not necessary as part of the agreed treatment plan.
3. Terminate the counseling or consulting relationship when it is reasonably clear that the client is not benefiting from the relationship.

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4. Understand an obligation to protect individuals, institutions, and the profession from harm that might be done by others. Consequently, I am aware that the conduct of another individual is an actual or likely source of harm to clients, colleagues, institutions, or the profession, and that I have an ethical obligation to report such conduct to competent authorities.

Principle 10: Societal Obligations - *The CGCCB shall advocate changes in public policy and legislation to afford opportunity and choice for all persons whose lives are impaired by pathological gambling and other forms of addiction and:*

1. Actively engage, to the best of my ability, in the legislative processes, educational institutions, and the general public to change public policy and legislation to make possible opportunities and choice of service for all human beings of any ethnic or social background whose lives are impaired by problem and pathological gambling.

Applicant's Signature

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