

Institutional Code of Ethics for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Facilities

- » We are dedicated to the provision of services to those in need, and **shall not discriminate** on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, or sexual orientation.
- » We commit to the maintenance of **professional objectivity**, fairness, integrity, and compassion in the performance of our duties and in all our relationships with patient and families.
- » We demonstrate our competence through the **pursuit of appropriate certification or licensure** and seek always to better our skills through education and training.
- » We accept our duty as members of the community to adhere to accepted **community and civic standards**.
- » We shall in all aspects of our practice **protect the confidentiality of our patients** in accordance with applicable standards.
- » When asked to provide information to the public, we shall endeavor to ensure that the **information is accurate and not misleading**.
- » In all our duties, we are aware of the welfare of our patients and strive never to act in ways that may be contrary to the patient's best interests. We shall **put the welfare of the patient above all** other considerations.
- » In our dealings with other institutions, agencies, and professionals, we strive to maintain an **attitude of respect, courtesy, and collegiality**.
- » We accept responsibility for **promoting the welfare of our patients and reducing stigma** through community advocacy and education.
- » We shall **avoid intimate relationships** of any sort with current and former patients and families in accordance with professional standards and institutional policy.
- » We commit to **reporting unlawful, unethical, or unprofessional conduct** on the part of others to the appropriate supervisors for subsequent action.