

Alcohol Drug Counselor (ADC)/Advanced Alcohol Drug Counselor (AADC) Code of Ethics

The IC&RC Alcohol and Drug Counselor/Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (ADC/AADC) Code of Ethics outlines basic values and principles of alcohol and drug addiction counselor practice. This Code serves as a guide for responsibility and ethical standards for IC&RC ADC/AADC professionals. This document shall be considered a living document which shall evolve in alignment with the growth and development of the profession. This document is not intended to represent all professional scenarios involving professional standards and ethical scenarios which may arise with the practice of alcohol and drug addiction counseling practice.

ADC/AADC professionals have a responsibility to provide effective, and ethical, services to persons they service in their professional capacity.

ADC/AADC professionals shall not perform services outside of the boundaries and scope of their expertise, shall be aware of the limits of their training and capabilities, and shall collaborate with other professionals to best meet the needs of the populations served. ADC/AADC professionals shall always preserve an objective and ethical relationship with the individual(s) served as part of the services they provide. This includes reporting any ethical misconduct to the respected person's credentialing/licensing body immediately. This credential does not condone, endorse, suggest, or intend that a shall serve independently without appropriate supervision.

A. Commitment to Informed Consent, Advocacy and Diversity Practices

As an ADC/AADC professional, I will:

1. Ensure the safety and welfare of the person served and keep the best interest of the person served as a priority of the relationship. This is done through treating the person with respect, dignity, compassion, empathy, and a commitment to trauma-informed services.
2. Inform each person served about the services they will be provided with and ensure they are provided with relevant documentation that is presented in a method and language the person receiving services will comprehend. Provide explanation of said documentation, including their rights and responsibilities, as a participant in said services.
3. Maintain competency in the training, practice, and ethics of telehealth services. Provide appropriate informed consent documentation regarding the benefits and risks of telehealth services to persons served. Adhere to agency policies and procedures around telehealth services.
4. Ensure clients verbally attest to the understanding of mandatory reporting laws and duty to warn that apply to the provider regarding both in person and telehealth services. Providers will follow both state and federal duty to warn and mandatory reporting laws applicable to their practice.
5. Provide clear explanations of the relationship between counselor and person served, including the limits of the relationship, confidentiality expectations and the limits of that confidentiality expectations.
6. Acknowledge and inform clients of their rights to knowledge of their multidisciplinary care team and what information is being shared therein.
7. Ensure the services provided are not discriminatory against any populations, or persons served, based upon ethnicity, race, color, religious or spiritual belief, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, or any other category that may separate them from my personal beliefs.

8. Advocate for client's rights and privileges as needed; work to reduce stigma towards persons with substance use and alcohol use disorders through sharing public statements or comments that are true and reflect current and accurate information pertaining to the field of addictions treatment, research regarding the substance use/alcohol use disorder, and the importance of client choice.
9. Charge each client in accordance with agency policy and accurately charge based upon services rendered. This includes keeping accurate records of these services, including date and times of service delivery.
10. Provide clear explanations and language of the certification achieved and provide visual display of credentials for client knowledge. Providers shall not deviate from the language set forth in the acquired credential and will inform clients of their rights to report unethical practices to your credentialing body.
11. Provide appropriate, effective, and ethical supervision to any persons I am charged with supervising. This includes accurately providing all education and certifications qualifying you to provide supervision in the realm of addictions services, documenting supervision sessions, encouraging professional growth, and reporting any concerns or ethical breaches, to the appropriate members of leadership and/or credentialing/licensing bodies.

B. Professional Conduct

As an ADC/AADC professional, I will:

1. Accurately identify my qualifications, expertise, and certifications to all whom I serve and to the public.
2. Conduct myself in accordance with the IC&RC ADC/AADC Code of Ethics.
3. Make public statements or comments that are true and reflect current and accurate information. Public statements will not cause negative consequences or harm to the community, views on addiction/recovery, addiction treatment/recovery profession, person(s) served, addiction credentials/licensing and/or organizations.
4. Not misuse any substances that may affect my ability and capacity to perform my duties as an ADC/AADC.
5. Recognize personal issues, behaviors, or conditions that may impact my performance as an ADC/AADC and seek out additional supervision as needed. This includes reporting any behaviors that may be perceived as a violation of this code of ethics.
6. Respect and acknowledge the professional efforts and contributions of others and will not declare or imply credit as my own. If involved in research, I shall give credit to those who contribute to the research.
7. Maintain required documentation for all counseling sessions, and client records, as required by the agency through which I am employed or the Federal requirements making certain that records are documented honestly and stored securely. Adhere to agency disposal of records policies and procedures.
8. Protect the privacy and confidentiality of persons served in adherence with Federal Confidentiality, HIPAA laws, local authority and state laws and regulations. This includes electronic privacy standards (social media, texting, Telehealth etc.)
9. Use client contact information in accordance with agency policy and applicable federal confidentiality laws, including HIPAA.

10. Ensure all services provided are within my scope of practice, educational qualifications, competencies and are evidence-based, person-centered and outcome driven. If it is identified that a client is seeking services outside of my scope of practice, I will ensure appropriate referrals are made which support the client's needs.
11. Further my educational knowledge related to the person served and the practices of my profession. This includes identifying areas of educational growth and completing education to improve those areas. I understand that my education should be ongoing during the course my practice and relevant to the services I provide.
12. Report any personal, agency, or other professional ethical misconduct in accordance with agency policy and licensing/credentialing body protocol.
13. Not commit a criminal offense. I understand if I am charged for a criminal offense, I am to immediately report this information to my respective IC&RC affiliate board and my hiring organization. My respective IC&RC affiliate board ethics committee reserves the right, within their stated Ethics policy and procedure, to take immediate disciplinary action up to and including suspension of my credential.
14. I will disclose directly to my respective IC&RC affiliate board, per my respective IC&RC affiliate board ethics reporting guidelines, if a known, or perceived, ethical violation has been committed by myself or person(s) who are currently certified/licensed in my state (regardless of certification/license).
15. Set clear, appropriate, and culturally sensitive boundaries with all persons served.
16. Work to identify implicit and explicit biases using supervision, continued education, consultation with other counseling professionals, and other awareness opportunities to grow in opportunities to overcome potential barriers to person-centered care.
17. Provide culturally responsive services, continue to develop an awareness of cultural humility through supervision and continued education while seeking out diversity enrichment opportunities within my community. I understand it is my responsibility to provide services that practice cultural humility and conduct myself in a manner that preserves the dignity of the culture(s) of the person(s) served and community.

C. Conflicts of Interest/Dual Relationships/Need for Supervision and Consultation

As an ADC/AADC professional, I will:

1. Reveal any perceived conflict of interest/dual relationship immediately to any organization I represent and remove myself from the professional relationship as required.
2. Disclose any existing or pre-existing professional, social, or business relationships with person(s) supervised and/or populations served. I shall determine, in consultation with my organization, whether existing or pre-existing relationships interfere with my ability to provide supervision of other professionals or service person(s) served.
3. Ensure that I am not romantically, sexually, or socially (in-person or online) involved with individuals served within my place of work, their close family and/or friends. I will immediately report any perceived boundary violations to my agency and to my respective IC&RC affiliate board if they violate this code of ethics. Regarding instances where I may have a current, or previous, relationship with a person who enters services at my agency, I will immediately disclose this to agency leadership.

4. Report unethical/unprofessional conduct of practices where potential harm to persons served or their immediate family or identified supports are evident or actual harm has occurred to the appropriate licensing authorities, state, or federal regulatory bodies, and my respective IC&RC affiliate board. Providers will seek out supervision or consultation as needed when filing an ethical complaint.
5. Obtain supervision or consultation regarding decisions of the acceptance/declining of gifts from clients.
6. Seek consultation/supervision when unsure of any current, previous, or perceived conflict of interest to the services provided.

D. Supervision/Education

As an ADC/AADC professional, I will:

1. Agree to maintain the supervision requirements set forth by my agency of employment and/or reimbursement requirements for the services I am providing.
2. Understand supervision is defined as a person-centered, strength-based approach to supporting the ADC/AADC with identification of professional strengths, areas of improvement, implicit/explicit bias, growth opportunities, cultural responsiveness and/or other items that will support the ADC/AADC providing competent and ethical services.
3. If adequate supervision is unavailable to me, I will contact my respective IC&RC affiliate board for supervision options.
4. I will abide by the certification and recertification requirements required for my level of certification.
5. Continue to seek out professional development and education opportunities within my profession and maintain documentation of all in-person and online certificates and CEU's achieved.
6. Utilize supervision to grow my professional skills set and identify skills/behaviors that require improvement.
7. Actively engage in competency reviews through self-identified measurements and professional development plans identified through my supervisor.
8. Maintain copies of all supervision documents to review professional growth opportunities.

If at any point I recognize I am unable to meet any of these requirements, I will immediately cease performance as an ADC/AADC professional and seek professional assistance. I understand it is my responsibility to abide by this code of ethics. Failure to abide by this code of ethics may result in disciplinary action, up to, and including, suspension or termination of my credential.

I hereby attest that I have read, understand, and will adhere to the IC&RC ADC/AADC Code of Ethics, as described above; and including, a subsequent change to the code of ethics that is duly approved by my respective IC&RC affiliate board at a regularly scheduled Board Meeting. It is my responsibility to remain current and comply with the code of ethics for this and other credentials awarded by my respective IC&RC affiliate board throughout the life of the credential.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____