



**Indian Alcoholism Commission of California, Inc. [IACC]**



Code of Ethics for All

## CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELORS

We Affirm:

1. That the primary goal for all chemical dependency/substance abuse counselors is to assist the client, their families and the community toward recovery, using both acceptable clinical and traditional methods. That counselors do not use their own professional relationships with clients to further their own interest.
2. That we have a total commitment to provide the highest quality of care to those who come to us for treatment of chemical addiction and abuse. We must stay within the scope of our own competence and expertise and when necessary make appropriate referrals to other health providers who have the specific expertise when clinically appropriate.
3. That we shall respect and act with due regard for the needs, special competencies, and obligations of our colleagues in the chemical dependency field and other professions. According to the principles of integrity, we will not do anything to mar our trustworthiness, or raise any doubts in the minds of our clients or the community about the competence of our peers and colleagues.
4. That we must be aware of our influential position with respect to clients and their family members and we must not exploit the trust and dependency of such persons. A dual relationship occurs when a counselor and his/her client's family members engage in a separate and distinct relationship during the time that the therapeutic relationship exists. Dual relationship includes, but is not limited to a sexual, romantic, financial, business or intimate relationship. For purposes of this section, counselors shall include any IACC intern, probationary counselor or certified counselor associated with IACC.
5. That we shall not misrepresent our own professional experience, clinical qualifications, competence, licensure or academic degrees. We should never attempt to provide services we are not trained for. That we have continuing commitment to assess our own personal strengths, limitations, biases and clinical effectiveness on a routine basis.



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6. That we shall evidence a genuine interest in all chemical addiction and substance abuse concerns. We do hereby dedicate ourselves to the best interest of our Native American Indian communities.

7. That we shall maintain at all times an objective, nonpossessive, professional relationship with all our clients, their families and direct friends.

8. That we shall adhere to the laws of confidentiality with regard to records, documents and other information concerning our client, their family or friends, except as authorized by client or required by federal, state or local agencies for funding or reporting purposes.

9. That we shall not in any way discriminate between clients, their family or friends, or other professionals on the basis of race, creed, color, age, marital status, disability, sex or sexual preference.

10. That we shall maintain respect for all organizational policies and management decisions within our agency or any other organization. That we will take the initiative toward improvement of such policies and management when it will better serve the interest of our clients, their families and communities.

11. That we shall continuously strive for self-improvement and professional growth through further education and specific training in the field of chemical dependence/substance abuse.

12. That we shall be responsible for our conduct both in personal and professional life. That we will not use alcohol or other illegal drugs in personal and professional life. We will not conduct ourselves in any manner where our behavior would diminish our capacity to maintain the trust and reliance of the client, their family and the community.

13. That we have the responsibility to our clients, our community, colleagues and ourselves to not have or engage in any sexual contact with a client. We will not commit or permit any type of physical or emotional abuse. Verbal, physical, sexual or visual harassment of co-workers, counselors, clients, members of the community or others is absolutely forbidden. Harassment can take many forms, including but not limited to the use of racial, sexual or ethnic statements, regardless of whether they were intended as jokes; sexually suggestive or unwelcome touching, including obscene gestures; the display of sexually suggestive or lewd photographs or pictures.



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14. In the event that we have knowledge of any other employee at our workplace that appears/seems to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, we will report to the appropriate supervisor. The use and/or possession of alcohol, narcotics, drugs or other controlled substances while on the job or program is absolutely forbidden. Conviction of an alcohol or substance abuse offense will result in immediate separation from IACC.

15. That as professional Certified Chemical Dependency/Substance Abuse Counselors, we are obligated to report to the IACC Commission Coordinator any violations of this code of ethics. This report must be in writing and not later than five (5) working days after receiving said information.

I agree to follow and honor all of the fifteen (15) steps listed above in the IACC Code of Ethics. I also agree that I will not use alcohol or other illegal drugs. I am fully aware that IACC, for any violation of the above stated Code of Ethics, may revoke my certification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chemical Dependency/Substance Abuse Counselor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness / Commission Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

cc: Chemical Dependency/Substance Abuse Counselors IACC File  
Chemical Dependency/Substance Abuse Counselors - file at work  
To each individual Chemical Dependency/Substance Abuse Counselors