

Professional Ethics Workshop Descriptions

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These are several of the most popular training workshops that I provide. Empirical references, research components, diversity components, and learning objectives are also available upon request for each workshop. These workshops are educational in nature and are not intended to provide legal advice. Participants are encouraged to contact an attorney for legal advice regarding state laws governing professional conduct. Seminars listed in order of popularity.

❑ Avoiding the Top Ten Ethical Pitfalls: A Common Sense Approach to Ethics

This training covers 10 of the most frequently encountered ethical pitfalls faced by mental health practitioners. There is discussion of specific ways that practitioners can avoid these pitfalls when possible and successfully navigate them when they are unavoidable. There is a more general discussion of a decision making model based on managing risk factors through the use of basic ethical principles and a philosophy of striving for excellence. Using composite cases, the presenter will discuss some of the most common questions that arise in ethics advisory consultations with private practitioners. Time: 3-hours or 5-hours

❑ Ethical Decision Making: Putting Ethics into Practice

Ethics is about so much more than avoiding bad behavior. It is about skillfully thinking through the shades of gray in a decision-making paradigm. Ethical decision-making can be an interesting deductive process if one has the right conceptual tools. This training provides some of the basic conceptual tools for addressing complex ethical dilemmas that consist of the gray areas. The presenter uses case examples from workshop participants to illustrate the use of a decision making approach to ethics. The presenter shares practical experiences and a common sense approach to ethics acquired from handling advisory consultations and adjudicating ethics complaints. Time: 3 hours or 5-hours

❑ Risk Management: Clinical, Ethical, and Legal Guidelines for Successful Practice

This training focuses on the practical application of putting ethical principles into clinical practice. Based on his most recent books, the presenter focuses on the theme that most ethical problems can be prevented and legal liability can be reduced through the use of some basic ethical principles. During the first half of the workshop, there is discussion of some of the most frequently encountered ethical pitfalls that are encountered by psychologists. During the second half of the workshop, presenter offers commentary and facilitates discussion among participants in order to explore creative solutions to ethical dilemmas so that participants can return to their practices with fresh ideas for putting ethics into daily practice. Time: 3-hours or 5-hours

❑ Consulting With Colleagues: Interactive Discussion of Common Ethical Dilemmas [Psychologists]

This training consists of a sampling of some of the most common scenarios and questions that are encountered in ethics advisory consultations on state ethics committees. With an emphasis on applying ethical principles to clinical situations, the workshop is based on interactive case discussions of scenarios involving ethical dilemmas. As an ethics consultant for several professional organizations, the presenter leads an interactive discussion that explores creative solutions to common ethical dilemmas. Time: 3-hours or 6-hours

❑ Professional Ethics and Clinical Practice: Common Case Scenarios

Dr. Doverspike will present five models of ethical decision making. He will explain how these basic conceptual models can be applied to some common case scenarios. He will facilitate an interactive discussion of some composite case scenarios that illustrate common ethical dilemmas. He will share practical experiences and a simple approach to ethics acquired from providing advisory consultations and adjudicating ethics complaints on a state ethics committee.

☐ Consulting With Colleagues: Interactive Discussion of Common Ethical Dilemmas [Counselors]

This training consists of a sampling of some of the most common scenarios and questions that are encountered in ethics advisory consultations on state ethics committees. With an emphasis on applying ethical principles to clinical situations, the workshop is based on interactive case discussions of scenarios involving ethical dilemmas. As an ethics consultant for several professional organizations, the presenter leads an interactive discussion that explores creative solutions to common ethical dilemmas. Time: 3-hours or 5-hours

☐ Ethics and Social Media

This training covers a variety of topics ranging from advertising and public statements to electronic communications. There is a specific focus on ways to avoid the ethical pitfalls often encountered in using electronic communications and web-based counseling. Ethics content areas include informed consent, confidentiality and privacy, public statements and disclosures, and boundaries and conflicts of interest. These areas are discussed with respect to Internet practices such as the use of email, blogs, websites, listservs, professional networks, and social media. Time: 3-hours

☐ Ethical Decision Making: Composite Case Scenarios

This training consists of a sampling of basic decision-making models applied to some of the most common ethical dilemmas. With an emphasis on applying ethical principles to clinical situations, the workshop is based on interactive case discussions of scenarios involving ethical dilemmas. As an ethics consultant for several professional organizations, the presenter leads an interactive discussion that explores creative solutions to composite cases. Time: 3-hours or 5-hours

☐ The So-Called Duty to Warn: Protecting the Public vs. Protecting the Patient

This workshop focuses on professional ethical standards, state and federal statutory requirements, and case law related to the topic of duty-to-protect third-parties of imminent danger. There is clarification of the distinction between discretionary and mandatory reporting requirements, as well situations in which statutory immunity applies. The presenter also discusses his legislative proposal that would provide licensed mental health professional with statutory immunity in third-party warning situations involving judgments of imminent and foreseeable danger. Time: 3-hours

☐ The Who, What, When, and Where of Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse

This training covers the seemingly simple but in reality more complex topic of reporting of suspected child abuse. Although mandated child abuse reporting requirements are clearly stated in the law, the interpretation of the statutory requirements is a more complex matter when clinicians work with children and families in real life practice. The speaker discusses federal and state requirements for reporting suspected child abuse, including the “who, what, when, and where” of mandated reporting. There is also clarification of the distinction between mandatory and discretionary reporting. There is also discussion of the applicability of empirical research related to child abuse reporting. Time: 3 hours

Brief Bibliography

Doverspike, W. F. (2014b). [Review of the book, *The ethics of private practice: A practical guide for mental health clinicians* by J. E. Barnett, J. Zimmerman, & S. Walfish (2014). New York: Oxford University Press]. *Independent Practitioner*, 34(4), 134-135.

Doverspike, W. F. (2014a). [Review of the book, *Issues and ethics in the helping professions* (9th ed.) by G. Corey, M. S. Corey, C. Corey, & P. Callanan (2015). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole, Cengage]. *Georgia Psychologist*, Vol. 68, No. 1, Page 16.

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