

# Code of Ethics

**Form VI**  
**Rev. May 2009**

## **KY Prevention Specialist Code of Ethics**

**I DO AFFIRM**

### **I. Non-Discrimination**

A Prevention Specialist shall not discriminate against service recipients or colleagues based on race, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, economic condition, or physical or mental disability. A Prevention Specialist should broaden his/her understanding and acceptance of cultural and individual differences, and in so doing render services and provide information sensitive to those differences.

### **II. Competence**

A Prevention Specialist shall observe the profession's technical and ethical standards, strive continually to improve personal competence and quality of service delivery, and perform professional responsibility to the best of his/her ability. Competence is derived from a synthesis of education and experience. It begins with the mastery of a body of knowledge and skill competencies. The maintenance of competence requires a commitment to learning and professional improvement that must continue throughout the specialist's life.

- a.** Specialists should be diligent in performing responsibilities. Diligence imposes the responsibility to render services carefully and promptly, to be thorough, and to observe applicable technical and ethical standards.
- b.** Due care requires a specialist to plan and supervise adequately any professional activity for which he or she is responsible.
- c.** A Prevention Specialist should recognize limitations and boundaries of competencies and not use techniques or offer services outside of his/her competencies. Each specialist is responsible for assessing the adequacy of his or her own competence for the responsibility to be assumed.
- d.** When a Prevention Specialist is aware of unethical conduct or practice on the part of an agency or prevention specialist, he or she has an ethical responsibility to report the conduct or practices to appropriate authorities or to the public.

### **III. Integrity**

To maintain and broaden public confidence, Prevention Specialists should perform all professional responsibilities with the highest sense of integrity. Integrity can accommodate the inadvertent error and the honest difference of opinion. It cannot accommodate the deceit or subordination of principle.

- a. Personal gain and advantage should not subordinate service and the public-trust. All information should be presented fairly and accurately. Each specialist should document and assign credit to all contributing sources used in published material or public statements.
- b. Prevention Specialists should not misrepresent either directly or by implication professional qualifications or affiliations.
- c. A Prevention Specialist should not be associated directly or indirectly with any services or products in a way that is misleading or incorrect.

### **IV. Nature of Services**

Above all, Prevention Specialists shall do no harm to service recipients. Practices shall be respectful and non-exploitive. Services should protect the recipient from harm and the Specialist and the profession from censure.

- a. Where there is evidence of child or other abuse, the Prevention Specialist shall report the evidence to the appropriate agency and follow up to ensure that appropriate action has been taken.
- b. Where there is evidence of impairment in a colleague or a service recipient, a Prevention Specialist should be supportive of assistance or treatment.
- c. A Prevention Specialist should recognize the effect of impairment on professional performance and should be willing to seek appropriate treatment for himself/herself.

### **V. Confidentiality**

Confidential information acquired during service delivery shall be safeguarded from disclosure, including, but not limited to, verbal disclosure, unsecured maintenance of records, or recording of an activity or presentation without appropriate releases.

### **VI. Ethical Obligations for Community and Society**

According to their conscience, Prevention Specialists should be proactive on public policy and legislative issues. The public welfare and the individual's right to services and personal wellness should guide the efforts of Prevention Specialists who must adopt a personal and professional stance that promotes the well-being of all humankind.

I have read and understand the Code of Ethical Conduct for Prevention Specialists. I will, to the best of my ability, adhere to and honor this Code in professional and personal dealings.

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT BELOW THE EXACT WAY YOU WISH YOUR NAME TO  
APPEAR ON YOUR CERTIFICATE**

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The Kentucky Certification Board for Prevention Professionals, Inc. shall not discriminate against applicants for certification on the basis of gender, age, race, national origin, creed or sexual orientation.