

MAPPA Prevention Code of Ethics

NON-DISCRIMINATION: The alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist must not discriminate against clients, the public or others based on race, religion, age, sex, national ancestry, sexual orientation or economic condition or against persons with disabilities.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist shall exercise competent professional judgment when dealing with clients, the public and other professionals and shall maintain their best interest at all times.

COMPETENCE: The alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist shall provide competent professional service to all in keeping with MAPPA standards. Competent professional service requires thorough knowledge of alcohol and other drug abuse, skill in presentation and education techniques, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary to assure the highest level of quality service and a willingness to maintain current and relevant knowledge through on-going professional education. The alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist shall assess personal competence and not operate beyond their skill or training level.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS: The alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist should maintain the highest professional standards and should not:

- claim either directly or by implication: professional knowledge, qualifications or affiliations that the prevention specialist does not possess;
- lend their name to, or participate in, any professional and/or business relationship which may knowingly
- misrepresent or mislead the public in any way;
- misrepresent their certification to the public or make false statements regarding their qualifications to MAPPA;
- jeopardize or compromise their professional status through the association, development and/or promotion of books or other products offered for commercial sale (for example, personal endorsement of products and/or techniques);
- fail to recognize the effect of professional impairment (i.e., intoxication, drug use relapse) on professional performance and the need to seek appropriate treatment for oneself

PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE PUBLIC: Although certified alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialists may feel a need to market themselves as competent or professional, they are to be mindful that they are discouraged from championing their own cause by denigration of others. In addition, the alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist shall not engage in false or misleading communication about their own or other professionals, abilities, training and/or experience.

PUBLICATIONS: The alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist who participates in the writing, editing or publication of professional papers, videos/films, pamphlets or booklets must act to reserve the integrity of the profession by acknowledging and documenting any materials and/or techniques or people (i.e. co-authors, researchers, etc.) used in creating their opinions/papers, books, etc. Additionally, any work that is photocopied prior to receipt of approval by the author is discouraged. Whenever and wherever possible, the alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist should seek permission from the author/creator of such materials. The use of copyrighted materials without first receiving author approval is against the law and, therefore, in violation of professional standards.

PUBLIC WELFARE: The alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist shall maintain objectivity, integrity and the highest professional standards in delivering prevention services, holding the best interest of the public first, and always striving to provide an appropriate setting to ensure professionalism and provide a supportive environment.

CONFIDENTIALITY: The alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist shall adhere to all applicable state and federal laws and rules, including reporting child abuse/neglect or misconduct by individuals or agencies. As such alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialists have the responsibility to be aware of and in compliance with all applicable state and federal guidelines, regulations and statutes and agency policies regarding confidentiality, data privacy and professional relationships.

PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS: The alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist shall maintain an objective, non-possessive relationship with those they serve and shall not exploit them sexually, financially or emotionally. Further, the alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist shall maintain the ability and willingness to make appropriate referrals.

PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY: An alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist should:

- never knowingly make a false statement to MAPPA or any other disciplinary authority;
- promptly alert colleagues to potentially unethical behavior so said colleague can take corrective action;
- report violations of professional conduct by other alcohol and other drug abuse professionals to the appropriate authority when there is knowledge that said professional has violated professional standards and has failed to take corrective action after a formal intervention.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist should not personally accept gifts or gratuities for professional work above and beyond the fees and gratuities being paid to the agency by which the prevention specialist is employed.

PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION: The alcohol and other drug abuse prevention specialist should strive to maintain and promote the integrity of certification within the state of Maryland, nationally and internationally, and the advancement of the alcohol and other drug abuse prevention profession.

_____ Date

_____ Signature