

LOUISIANA Peer Support Specialist Code of Ethics

The principles in the following Code of Ethics will guide Certified Peer Support Specialists in their various roles, relationships and levels of responsibility in which they function professionally. Peer Support Specialists at all times will preserve an objective and professional relationship with peers they serve. **Individuals who participate in the Peer Support Specialist Training will be required to sign a form acknowledging the receipt of the Code of Ethics.**

As a Peer Specialist, you have distinguished yourself by becoming a unique and influential member of the behavioral health community. You have accepted your behavioral health diagnosis as a part of who you are, not as a liability, but as your own path of challenges and successes you've had which have helped you to build strength, character, and resilience. You have shared your path freely with others to foster openness and eliminate stigma. You have excelled in your recovery to such an extent that you are able to share your story as a source of hope to others and have chosen to do so as a professional.

As a Peer Support Specialist you shall:

1. Role-model wellness and recovery and develop a support team with resources to stay in recovery.
2. Conduct yourself in a manner that fosters your own recovery and will maintain personal standards that are respectful to self and community.
3. Remain free from any substances that affect your ability and capacity to perform my duties as a Peer Support Specialist.
4. Recognize personal issues, behaviors, or conditions that may impact your performance as a Peer Support Specialist.
5. Respect the privacy and confidentiality of persons served.
6. Inform persons served that contemplated or actual harm to self or others cannot be kept confidential.
7. Inform appropriate staff members immediately about any person's possible harm to self or others or abuse from caregivers.
8. Accurately inform persons served regarding the degree to which information will be shared with other team members, based on their agency policy and job description.
9. At all times, respect the rights, dignity, privacy and confidentiality of those they support.
10. Use recovery oriented language that is accurate and respectful language in all communications to and about persons served.
11. Set clear, appropriate, and culturally sensitive boundaries with all persons served.
12. Provide services and support only within the hours, days and locations that are authorized by the agency with which they are employed.

13. Disclose any existing or pre-existing professional, social, or business relationships with person(s) served.
 - a. Determine, in consultation with professional supervisor, whether existing or pre-existing relationships interfere with ability to provide peer support services to person(s) served.
14. Peer Support Specialists will keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery, and openly share this knowledge with their colleagues.
15. Abide by the employing organization's policies and procedures.

As a Peer Support Specialist you shall not:

1. Reveal confidential information obtained as the result of a professional relationship, without the prior written consent from the person(s) served, except as authorized or required by state and/or federal law.
2. Practice, condone, facilitate or collaborate in any form of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, disability, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition or state.
3. Intimidate, threaten, or harass persons served
4. Use undue influence, physical force, or verbal abuse with persons served.
5. Make unwarranted promises of benefits to persons served.
6. Provide services when under the influence of alcohol or when impaired by any substance, whether or not it is prescribed.
7. Engage in conduct that is prohibited by state, federal, or local law, including those laws prohibiting the use, possession, or distribution of drugs or alcohol.
8. Enter into dual relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of persons served.
9. Engage in sexual activities or personal relationships with persons served or members of the immediate family of person(s) served.
10. Accept gifts of significant value from those they service. They do not loan, give, or receive money, goods or payment for any services to, or from, service recipients.
11. Sponsor individuals with whom you have previously served or currently serve as a Peer Support Specialist.
12. Practice psychotherapy, make clinical or diagnostic assessments, discuss medication or dispense expert opinions.
13. Engage in any service that requires a license;
14. Discuss their employment situation in a negative manner with any service recipient.

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By initialing and signing below, you understand that you are required to follow the professional standards of conduct detailed in the Peer Support Specialist Code of Ethics. You also understand this requirement should be met each year.

Your initials and signature are required.

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the most current Louisiana Peer Support Specialist Code of Ethics and will be responsible for obtaining all future amendments and modification thereto.

(Initials)

I further that I have read and understand all rules and obligations as described within the Louisiana Peer Support Specialist Code of Ethics and will abide by not only the code of ethics as described but all future changes and/or modifications.

(Initials)

(Signature)

(Print Full Name)

(Date)