

# **Worksheet to resolve Ethical Dilemmas**

## **What to Do?**

## Identify the Dilemma

Be specific and objective

Ethical	Clinical	Legal
List the ethical Dilemma	List the clinical dilemma	List the legal dilemma

**Identify who is involved—client, self and other parties, and how each party is affected by the decision** (Consider the rights, interests, and welfare of the parties affected and your responsibility to them)

Party(ies) involved	Outcome
Client	
Self	
Spouse	
Parents	
Third party	
Other	

### Code of Ethics ([link](#))

#### List the relevant Ethical Principles:

1. Respect for the Dignity of Persons and Peoples
2. Responsible Caring
3. Integrity to Relationships
4. Responsibility to Society

## **Applicable Standards of Practice ([link](#))**

Explore and list relevant Standards of Practice

1. Informed Consent
2. Competence
3. Provisions of Supportable Services
4. Provision of Services Through Distance Technology
5. Maintenance and Retention of Records
6. Continuity of Care
7. Termination of Services
8. Dual/Multiple Relationships
9. Relationships with Supervisees
  
10. Protecting the Confidentiality of Clients
11. Representation of Service
12. Fees And Statements
13. Collaborative Practice
14. Awareness Of Illegal Practice
15. Duty To Report
16. Truth And Reconciliation
17. Diversity And Cultural Competency
18. Harassment<sup>1</sup>
9. Conscientious Objection

## Legislations/Laws affecting Psychologists in Alberta

Refer to the link below which would take you to the Jurisprudence section under Additional CAP Resources on the College of Alberta [website](#):

List the applicable laws one is mandated to comply with:

## Biases

Identify and document any biases applicable

Personal Biases	Social Biases	Cultural Biases	Religious Biases	Others

## Consultation

Registered Psychologists	Provisional Psychologists
Name of clinical managers/professional colleagues/peers consulted:	Name of the clinical supervisor(s) consulted:
Professional Guidance Program through the Psychologists' Association of Alberta:	List, if accessed, Supervision Consultants through CAP:
List any literature reviewed:	List any literature reviewed:

## Identify and evaluate the alternative course of actions and consequences

(For legal issues, please contact your liability insurance and speak with a lawyer)

Course of Action	Potential Benefits	Potential Risks

## **Implement the course of action &**

### **Assume Responsibility**

Decision

### **Self-Reflection**

- How did the ethical/clinical/legal dilemma affect me personally and professionally?
- Steps to take care of the above identified
- What did I learn from the situation?
- Is there any new or additional learning required?
- Do I need to build up more professional support?

## References

- Canadian Psychological Association. (2017). *Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists*, 4th ed. [https://cpa.ca/docs/File/Ethics/CPA\\_code\\_2017\\_4thEd.pdf](https://cpa.ca/docs/File/Ethics/CPA_code_2017_4thEd.pdf)
- College of Alberta Psychologists, *Standards of Practice* (2019). Retrieved from [cap.ab.ca/resources-information](http://cap.ab.ca/resources-information)
- Forester-Miller, H., & Davis, T.E (2016). *Practitioner's guide to ethical decision making* (Rev. ed.). Retrieved from <http://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/ethics/practitioner's-guide-to-ethical-decision-making.pdf>
- National Association of School Psychologists (2020). *Professional Practice Standards Adopted*. Retrieved from <https://www.nasponline.org/standards-and-certification/professional-ethics>
- Truscott., & Crook, K. H. (2021). *Ethics for the practice of Psychology in Canada*. Pica Pica Press, an imprint of University of Alberta Press.

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