

ETHICS

PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST CODE OF ETHICS

The principles in the following Code of Ethics¹ 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 that 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.*

1. Peer Support Specialists will conduct themselves in a manner that fosters their own recovery and will maintain personal standards that are respectful to self and community.
2. Peer Support Specialists will be open to share with service recipients and coworkers their stories of hope and recovery and will likewise be able to identify and describe the supports that promote their recovery and resilience with the intention of helping peers with their own individualized recovery.
3. Peer Support Specialists will keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery, and openly share this knowledge with their colleagues.
4. Peer Support Specialists have a duty to inform service recipients when first discussing confidentiality that contemplated or actual harm to self or others cannot be kept confidential. **Peer Support Specialists have a duty to accurately inform service recipients regarding the degree to which information will be shared with other team members, based on their agency policy and job description.** Peer Support Specialists have a duty to inform appropriate staff members immediately about any person's possible harm to self or others or abuse from caregivers.
5. Peer Support Specialists will never intimidate, threaten, harass, use undue influence, physical force or verbal abuse, or make unwarranted promises of benefits to the service recipients they support.
6. Peer Support Specialists will not 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.
7. Peer Support Specialists will never engage in any sexual/intimate activities with the consumers they serve.
8. Peer Support Specialists will not enter into dual relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of those they serve.
9. Peer Support Specialists shall only provide services and support within the hours, days and locations that are authorized by the agency with which they work.
10. Peer Support Specialists will not 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. Peer Support Specialists will not discuss their employment situation in a negative manner with any service recipient.
12. Peer Support Specialists will at all times, respect the rights, dignity, privacy and confidentiality of those they support.
13. Peer Support Specialists will not abuse legal/illegal substances under any circumstance.
14. Peer Support Specialists will not use derogatory language in their written or verbal communication to or about persons served. Peer Support Specialists will use accurate and respectful language in all communications to and about persons served.

¹ Adapted and modified from Peer Support Specialist Code of Ethics Iowa, http://www.sppg.com/peer_support/resources.php; Wisconsin, <http://www4.uwm.edu/scc/resources/shs/applicationwmentalhealthpeerspecialistcertification.pdf>; and Oklahoma, [http://www.ok.gov/odmhsas/Consumer_Services/Mental_Health/Recovery_Support_Specialists_\(RSS\)/index.html](http://www.ok.gov/odmhsas/Consumer_Services/Mental_Health/Recovery_Support_Specialists_(RSS)/index.html)

PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST CODE OF ETHICS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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. Your initials and signature are required.

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the most current 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 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)

x _____
(Print Full Name)

(Date)

x _____
(Signature)