CODE OF ETHICS
of the
OKLAHOMA SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION

Preamble

The preservation of the highest standards of integrity and ethical principles is vital to the responsible discharge of obligations in the professions of speech language pathology and audiology. This Code of Ethics sets forth the fundamental principles and rules considered essential to this purpose. It is the expectation that any person who is a full, life, associate or student member of the Oklahoma Speech-Language-Hearing Association abide by this Code of Ethics. Content derived from the Code of Ethics of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association informs the content of this document.

Any action that violates the spirit or purpose of this Code shall be considered unethical. Failure to specify any particular responsibility or practice in this Code of Ethics shall not be construed as a denial of the existence of such responsibilities or practices.

The fundamentals of ethical conduct are described by Principles of Ethics and by Rules of Ethics as they relate to responsibility to persons served, to the public, and to the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology.

Principles of Ethics are aspirational and inspirational in nature, and form the underlying moral basis for the Code of Ethics. Association members shall observe these principles as affirmative obligations under all conditions of professional activity.

Rules of Ethics are specific statements of minimally acceptable professional conduct or prohibitions and are applicable to all Association members.

Principle of Ethics I

Members shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve professionally.

Rules of Ethics

1. Members shall provide all services competently.
2. Members shall use every resource, including referral when appropriate, to ensure that high-quality service is provided.
3. Members shall not discriminate in the delivery of professional services or in the conduct of research and scholarly activities on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, citizenship, disability, genetic information, culture, language, or accent or socioeconomic status.
4. Members shall fully inform the persons they serve of the nature and possible effects of services rendered and products dispensed.
5. Members shall evaluate the effectiveness of services rendered and of products dispensed and shall provide services or dispense products only when benefit can reasonably be expected.

6. Members shall not guarantee the results of any treatment or procedure, directly or by implication; however, they may make a reasonable statement of prognosis.

7. Members shall not evaluate or treat speech, language or hearing disorders solely by correspondence. This statement does not prevent provision of services by telepractice, when such practice is allowed by law, and provided in a manner which ensures that the quality of service is substantially similar to care provided in a face-to-face manner.

8. Members shall maintain adequate records of professional services rendered and products dispensed and shall allow access to these records when appropriately authorized.

9. Members shall not reveal, without authorization, any professional or personal information about the person served professionally, unless required by law to do so, or unless doing so is necessary to protect the welfare of the person or of the community.

10. Members shall not charge for services not rendered, nor shall they misrepresent, in any fashion, services rendered or products dispensed.

11. Members shall use persons in research or as subjects of teaching demonstrations only after obtaining informed consent.

12. Members shall withdraw from professional practice when substance abuse or an emotional or mental disability may adversely affect the quality of services they render.

13. Members shall provide reasonable notice and information about alternatives for obtaining care in the event that they can no longer provide professional services.

Principle of Ethics II

Members shall honor their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of professional competence.

Rules of Ethics

1. Members shall engage in the provision of clinical services only when they hold the appropriate license and/or certification, or when they are in the certification process and are supervised by an individual who holds the appropriate license and/or certification.

2. Members shall engage in only those aspects of the professions that are within the scope of their competence, considering their level of education, training, and experience.

3. Members shall continue their professional development throughout their careers.

4. Members shall delegate the provision of clinical services only to persons who are licensed and/or certified, or to persons in the education or licensure/certification process who are appropriately supervised.

5. Members shall prohibit any of their professional staff from providing services that exceed the staff member's competence, considering the staff member's level of education, training, and experience.

6. Members shall make use of technology and instrumentation consistent with accepted professional guidelines in their areas of practice. When such technology is not available, an appropriate referral may be made.

7. Members shall ensure that all equipment used in the provision of services is in proper working order and is properly calibrated.

Principle of Ethics III

Members shall honor their responsibility to the public by promoting public understanding of the professions, by supporting the development of services designed to fulfill the unmet needs of the public, and by providing accurate information in all communications involving any aspect of the professions.

Rules of Ethics

1. Members shall not misrepresent their credentials, competence, education, training or experience.

2. Members shall not misrepresent the credentials of aides, assistants, technicians, support personnel, students, research interns, Clinical Fellows, or any others under their supervision, and they shall inform those they serve professionally of the name, role, and professional credentials of persons providing services.

3. Members shall not participate in professional activities that constitute a conflict of interest.

4. Members shall not misrepresent diagnostic information, services rendered or products dispensed or engage in any scheme or artifice to defraud in connection with obtaining payment or reimbursement for such services or products.

5. Members' statements to the public shall provide accurate information about the nature and management of communication disorders, about the professions, and about professional services.

6. Members' statements to the public advertising, announcing, and marketing professional services, reporting research results, and promoting products shall adhere to prevailing professional standards and shall not contain misrepresentations.

Principle of Ethics IV

Members shall honor their responsibility to the professions and their relationships with colleagues, students, and members of allied professions, Members shall uphold the dignity and autonomy of the professions, maintain harmonious inter-professional and intra-professional relationships, and accept the professions' self-imposed standards.

Rules of Ethics

1. Members shall prohibit anyone under their supervision from engaging in any practice that violates the Code of Ethics.

2. Members shall not engage in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation or any form of conduct that adversely reflects on the profession or on the member's fitness to serve persons professionally.
3. Members shall assign credit only to those who have contributed to a publication, presentation or product. Credit shall be assigned in proportion to the contribution and only with the contributor's consent.
4. Members' statements to colleagues about professional services, research results, and products shall adhere to prevailing professional standards. Every effort will be taken to avoid misrepresentation.
5. Members shall not provide professional services without exercising independent professional judgment, regardless of referral source or prescription.
6. Members who are aware of violations of professional codes of ethics shall report such violations to the appropriate entities.
7. Members shall not discriminate in their relationships with colleagues, assistants, students, support personnel, and members of allied professions and disciplines on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, citizenship, disability, genetic information, culture, language, accent or socioeconomic status.

Approved by Membership 2017
Approved by Membership 8.27.2021
Approved by EC 7.09.2026