

Illinois Certification Board (ICB) Code of Ethics
For ICB Credentialed Professionals

SECTION 1 – NAME AND PURPOSE.

1.01: Name: This Code shall be known and may be cited as the Illinois Certification Board (“ICB”) Code of Ethics for Certified Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Professionals (“Code of Ethics”), and it shall supersede any and all prior ethics codes.

1.02: Purpose: The ICB’s mission is to protect the public by providing competency based credentialing of human service professionals. An essential element of this protection is the requirement that ICB Credentialed Professionals (as defined in Section 2.05 of the Code of Procedure) maintain high ethical standards based on the principles of integrity, objectivity, professionalism, and respect. Consistent application of these standards protects the welfare and dignity of AOD clients, improves the outcome of Certified ICB Professional Services (as defined in Section 2.04 of the Code of Procedure), and advances the public standing of the AOD profession.

1.03: ICB Code of Procedure: The ICB Code of Procedure (“Code of Procedure”), supplements this Code of Ethics as described in Section 3, below.

SECTION 2 – ETHICAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.

ICB Credentialed Professionals shall adhere to the following ethical standards as a condition of attaining and maintaining ICB Certification:

2.01: Personal Conduct Standards:

2.01.01: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not abuse alcohol or legal drugs. This includes but is not limited to alcohol or drug related legal problems or any other alcohol or drug related conduct that reflects poorly on them or the AOD profession.

2.01.02: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not possess or use illegal drugs. Cannabis Disclaimer: As to the legality of cannabis, although legalized under Illinois State law, nothing in the Code of Ethics or the Code of Procedure should be construed to legalize cannabis, which under federal law is referred to as “marihuana” and defined as “all parts of the plant Cannabis sativa L., whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant, its seeds or resin”. Accordingly, marijuana (cannabis) remains illegal under all provisions of federal law, including but not limited to the Controlled Substances Act which is found at Title 21, Section 811 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) and under which makes any and all use, possession, growth, cultivation,

sale, giving away or other distribution of marijuana illegal as a Type I drug, including any “medical marijuana” or medically prescribed cannabis.

2.01.03: ICB Credentialed Professionals who become aware that their personal use of alcohol or drugs may be problematic shall seek appropriate assistance and promptly notify the Illinois Certification’s Executive Director (“Director”) of that decision. ICB Credentialed Professionals shall cease their involvement in the provision of Certified ICB Professional Services or any professional services rendered pursuant to any Credential, until any problematic use of alcohol or drugs is stable or resolved and does not affect their professional competency.

2.01.04: ICB Credentialed Professionals who become aware that serious personal issues may be problematic shall seek appropriate assistance and promptly notify the Director of that decision. Serious personal issues include but are not limited to physical or mental health concerns, process addictions, active legal charges, or any other issue that reflects poorly on them or the AOD profession. ICB Credentialed Professionals shall cease their involvement in the provision of Certified ICB Professional Services or any other professional services rendered pursuant to any Credential, until their personal issues are stable or resolved and do not affect their professional competency.

2.01.05: ICB Credentialed Professionals must inform the ICB if convicted of a felony, or any sexual or drug related offense, in any court of competent jurisdiction in this or any other state, district, or territory of the United States or of a foreign country and cease their direct provision of any AOD clinical or intervention services in Illinois for two (2) years from the date of conviction or any related subsequent incarceration, whichever occurred first. The provisions of this Section shall in no way be deemed to waive or limit any right or remedy of the ICB under any other provision of the Code of Ethics and/or the Procedure Code.

2.01.06: ICB Credentialed Professionals must inform the ICB if they have a suspension or revocation of driving privileges for any alcohol or drug related driving offense and cease their direct provision of DUI evaluation or Risk Education in Illinois for two (2) years from the date of conviction or DUI summary suspension. The provisions of this Section shall in no way be deemed to waive or limit any right or remedy of the ICB under any other provision of the Code of Ethics and/or the Procedure Code.

2.02: Professional Conduct Standards:

2.02.01: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not misrepresent their professional qualifications.

2.02.02: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall submit accurate information to ICB for the purposes of obtaining and maintaining certification.

2.02.03: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall consider the welfare of the public and the profession when making recommendations for positions, advancement, and certification.

2.02.04: ICB Credentialed Professionals who teach AOD counseling or supervise AOD counselors shall discharge these responsibilities with the same regard for standards required for all Certified ICB Professional Services.

2.02.05: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall adhere to high standards and follow appropriate scientific procedures when conducting research, including but not limited to adhering to current

evidence informed practice and be in compliance with Institutional Review Board requirements.

2.02.06: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not take credit for professional substance abuse services, or any other professional services performed pursuant to any Certificate, that is done by others. This includes services done by other ICB Credentialed Professionals, non-certified staff, or interns.

2.02.07: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not charge or collect a private fee or other form of compensation for services to a client who is charged for those same services through the counselor's organization. ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not engage in fee-splitting.

2.02.08: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not use their relationship with their clients to promote personal gain, profit for an organization, or commercial enterprise of any kind for at least three (3) years after termination of services.

2.02.09: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not engage in any sexual relationship, conduct, contact, exploitation, or harassment with clients, former clients, clients' partners, clients' relatives, or any active client of any Office as defined in Section 2.20 of the Code of Procedure. This prohibition is in effect during the time of any active counseling relationship and in perpetuity once the counseling relationship has ended.

2.02.10: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not engage in any sexual relationship, conduct, contact, exploitation, or harassment with students or supervisees.

2.02.11: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not practice or condone discrimination against clients, clients' partners, clients' family, or other professionals based on age, culture, disability, ethnicity, race, religion/spirituality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status/partnership, language preference, social economic status, or any basis prescribed by law.

2.02.12: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not knowingly solicit the clients of other colleagues/professionals or accept for treatment a person who is receiving services from another professional except by mutual agreement or after termination of services.

2.02.13: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall fully cooperate with all local, state, and federal authorities having jurisdiction in regard to routine onsite compliance inspections, investigations for cause, and requests for information.

2.02.14 ICB Credentialed Professionals may use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, internet web pages or website, etc.) to advertise the offering of treatment, intervention, peer services, or any other activity associated with their credential. ICB Credentialed Professionals must ensure the following when using social media: (1) They do not use their relationship with their clients to promote personal gain, profit for an organization, or commercial enterprise of any kind for at least three (3) years after termination of services; (2) They do not knowingly solicit the clients of other colleagues/professionals; (3) They comply with all federal and state confidentiality standards; and (4) they do not enter into any inappropriate dual relationships with clients. This does not include peers services where use of social media is considered part of the program model. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Section 2.02.14 shall sanction or approve any other improper advertising relating to the offering of treatment, intervention, peer services, or any other activity associated with their credential, or for any other purpose prohibited by (or that is otherwise in violation of) this Code of Ethics, the Code of Procedure, or any other canon, rule or

regulation promulgated by the Director from time-to-time. In addition, nothing in this Section 2.02.14 shall be construed to limit the scope of Section 2.02.15. 2.02.15: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not engage in any other conduct or behavior which would bring the ICB and/or AOD profession into disrepute.

2.03: Confidentiality Standards:

2.03.01: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall be familiar and comply with all federal and state laws regarding confidentiality.

2.03.02: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall inform clients at the beginning of the counseling or other professional relationship, the limits of confidentiality laws and the foreseeable uses of information generated through counseling services.

2.03.03: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall maintain confidentiality unless it is in the best interest of the clients, the welfare of others, an obligation to society, or legal requirements demand that confidential material be revealed. ICB Credentialed Professionals, if applicable, shall consult with his or her Managing AOD Professional as defined in Section 2.19 of the Code of Procedure and/or legal counsel, when unsure if an exception to confidentiality exists.

2.03.04: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall only reveal essential information when circumstances require the disclosure of confidential material. To the extent possible, clients will be informed before confidential material is disclosed.

2.03.05: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall accurately document all AOD and other professional services and safely store client records according to state and federal confidentiality laws.

2.04 Service Delivery Standards:

2.04.01: ICB Credentialed Professionals must exercise clinical discretion when prescribing substances with abuse potential to clients with known or suspected substance related and addictive disorders.

2.04.02: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not enter into counseling or other professional relationships with members of their own family, close friends, persons closely connected to them, or others whose welfare might be jeopardized by such a dual relationship.

2.04.03: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not initiate a counseling or other professional relationship and shall terminate any active counseling relationship when the client no longer needs services, the client is not benefiting from services, other services are more appropriate, the client does not pay agreed upon fees, or the Certified AOD Professional has personal issues preventing the effective delivery of services. ICB Credentialed Professionals shall be knowledgeable about referral resources and suggest appropriate alternatives. If clients decline the suggested referrals, ICB Credentialed Professionals are not obligated to continue the relationship.

2.04.04: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not abandon or neglect clients in treatment and/or other professional services and shall otherwise assist in making appropriate arrangements for the continuation of treatment, if appropriate, following termination of treatment.

2.04.05: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall ensure that services are offered in a respectful environment that meets all local, state, and Federal safety and accessibility requirements.

2.04.06: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not physically, emotionally, financially or verbally abuse their clients.

2.04.07: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not offer services outside their range of competency.

2.04.08: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not offer services outside the boundaries of the AOD profession or similar profession, unless otherwise qualified through education, training, licensure, or certification.

2.05: Ethics Violation Reporting Standards:

2.05.01: ICB Credentialed Professionals with personal knowledge of another Certified AOD Professional's possible violation of ethical standards shall attempt to clarify or rectify the situation if practical. If such attempts fail and they possess information that raises doubts as to whether another Certified AOD Professional is acting in an ethical manner, ICB Credentialed Professionals shall promptly submit an ethics Complaint to the ICB Executive Director.

2.05.02: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall not initiate, participate in, or encourage the filings of ethics complaints that are frivolous or intended to harm a Certified AOD Professional rather than to protect clients or the public.

2.05.03: ICB Credentialed Professionals shall fully and completely cooperate with investigations, proceedings, and requirements of any ICB ethics investigation or any other investigations of any ethics committees of other duly constituted associations or boards having jurisdiction over matters under this Code of Ethics or the Code of Procedure.

SECTION 3 – VIOLATIONS-CODE OF PROCEDURE/OTHER CODES, ETC.

3.01: Code of Procedure: All alleged violations of this Code of Ethics and any complaints filed there under shall be administered pursuant to the Code of Procedure, as amended from time-to-time.

3.02: Conflict: The provisions of the Code of Procedure (including any definitions therein) are incorporated into this Code of Ethics by reference. The intent of the Code of Procedure is to supplement this Code of Ethics and in the event of any direct conflict between the terms of this Code of Ethics with any provisions of the Code of Procedure, the provisions of this Code of Ethics shall control.