

ETHICAL GUIDELINES

Purpose of Ethical Guidelines:

- To define what is acceptable and unacceptable according to an agency and/or profession.
- To clarify an agency's guiding principles, mission, and values.
- To assist staff in meeting standards of applicable professions.
- To be a resource to staff in making decisions on ethical dilemmas they encounter.
- To help reduce dissimilarity in staff decision making by ensuring all staff is aware of and agree to follow the agency's guidelines.
- To ensure staff is adhering to governing rules, regulations, and laws.

It is imperative staff adhere to the ethical guidelines of their individual professions (e.g., NASW, APA, ACA, etc), but also to ensure the agency as a whole follows one of these sets of guidelines. It may be difficult for an agency to keep uniformity throughout if the agency employs staff from a variety of professions. Therefore, it may be wise for an agency to choose one set of guidelines it requires all staff to follow, regardless of profession orientation; or the agency writes its own ethical guidelines. The agency should ensure staff are aware of and have access to the ethical guidelines in training and on an ongoing basis.

Professional Guidelines:

- Social Work: <http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/default.asp>
- Professional Counselor:
<http://www.counseling.org/Resources/CodeOfEthics/TP/Home/CT2.aspx>
- Psychology: <http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx>
- Juvenile Justice Services (Utah):

If an agency chooses to write its own Code of Ethics, consider including the following:

- Code of conduct.
- Educational/training requirements for positions.
- Guidelines requiring sensitivity to cultural and individual differences, and disabilities.
- Confidentiality agreements.
- Professional ethics (such as honesty, responsibility, personal integrity, and respect).
- Boundaries between staff and youth are set.
- Reference to all pertinent laws, regulations, policies, and procedures (such as duty to report suspected child abuse).

Resources in Writing Guidelines

- <http://www.ethics.org/resources/>
- <http://www.ethicsweb.ca/codes/>
- <http://www.singerpubs.com/ethikos/html/20questions.html>
- <http://le.utah.gov/UtahCode/getCodeSection?code=62A-4a-403>