Certified Peer Specialist Code of Ethics

The following principles will guide Certified Peer Specialists (CPSs) in their professional roles and relationships.

- Help individuals I serve satisfy their needs and reach their self-determined goals.
- Advocate for those I serve and encourage them to make their own decisions.
- Advocate for the full integration of those I serve into the communities of their choice and the right to live in the least restrictive environment.
- Maintain high standards of personal conduct and at all times treat others with respect and dignity.
- Respect the privacy of individuals I serve and maintain the confidentiality of any information I obtain in my work.
- Keep current with emerging knowledge about peer support and recovery and incorporate this into my work.
- Never enter into dual relationships or commitments with individuals I serve.
- Never intimidate, threaten, harass, use undue influence, physical force or verbal abuse, or make unwarranted promises of benefits to individuals I serve.
- Never engage in sexual or intimate activities with individuals I serve.
- Never practice or condone any form of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, cultural affiliation, sex/sexual orientation, mental/physical disability, age, religion, national origin or any other preference or personal characteristic.
- Never abuse substances under any circumstance, at any time.
- Never accept gifts of significant value from individuals I serve.
Note: Certified Peer Specialist should consult agency or other government policies by which they are employed, that may supersede these guidelines. Further, Certified Peer Specialist are advised to always consult with their supervisor on all ethical and boundary concerns they may have.

8 Core Ethical Principles

- Do the Most Good
- Do No Harm
- Focus on the Individual
- Be Fair and Just
- Tell the Truth (Honesty)
- Informed Consent
- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Continuing Education
Five Decision Making Principles

- Principle of Primary Benefit
- Principle of Ethical Action
- Principle of Expectation
- Principle of Resources
- Principle of Satisfaction