Texas – Ethics for Professional Counselors – 3 hours

This course is based upon 2 source documents. The questions occur in the order that the articles are presented. Each article can be found by clicking on the web links below.

Click here for 1st article

Click here for 2nd article

Course Description:

This 3 hours ethics continuing education course is designed to meet the license renewal requirements for Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) in the state of Texas. It is based upon two publications, one developed by the Office of the Surgeon General and the other developed by the American Psychological Association (APA).

The first article is a comprehensive report on Mental Health published by the Office of the Surgeon General of the United States. This ceu material provides licensed professional counselors, therapists and other healthcare professionals with a review of current information on ethical issues about confidentiality; values underlying confidentiality, research on confidentiality and mental health treatment and the current state of confidentiality law. This course material is designed for both licensed clinicians and administrators who work in both private and public, and urban and rural areas.

The second source in this course is based on an article published on the APA – American Psychological Association, website about ethics for psychologists and other healthcare professionals. It is a short summary of the frequent ethical problems that are encountered by practicing psychologists and therapists, as well as other healthcare professionals, with guidelines for avoiding problems. It is full of practical tips on how to avoid common ethical dilemmas.

Psychologists, social workers, mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists can benefit from this course. This course may also be
helpful for other practitioners, such as midwives and dieticians and nutritionists who also need continuing education in the area of ethics and who need to practice the principle of confidentiality. Most states that require continuing education courses for licensed professionals require ethics courses. This course is appropriate for beginning, intermediate and advanced level practitioners who wish to learn about ethics, confidentiality and legal issues.

The publication is written in simple, easy to read terms, that provide enough detail to help a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) or other mental health professional increase their knowledge of ethics, confidentiality and how to avoid ethical problems. It was specifically designed to meet license renewal requirements for LPCs in Texas, however it is equally appropriate for other counselors, social workers, psychologists and substance abuse specialists.

This continuing education course serves as an excellent resource for licensed professional counselors, licensed clinical social workers, licensed psychologists, interns, chemical dependency counselors, and other licensed therapists who require continuing education in ethics and must follow rules of confidentiality in their practice.

Nurses who need continuing education related to mental health treatment or psychotherapy can also benefit from this course. This continuing education course may also be helpful for other practitioners, such as midwives and dieticians and nutritionists who may also work with clients who have a mental illness or other reason in which confidentiality is an important clinical factor.

This course is appropriate for beginning, intermediate and advanced level practitioners who wish to learn more about ethics, confidentiality and legal issues related to mental health and professional counseling.

**Authors:** The Surgeon Generals Office of the United States and the American Psychological Association (APA)

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Objectives: This course will provide a professional counselor or therapist with information regarding confidentiality in mental health. This course covers ethics and legal issues in mental health. Specifically, a professional will:

- Identify specific laws and legal provisions regarding confidentiality that apply nationwide.
- Recognize the most common ethical problems currently facing practicing therapists and healthcare professionals
- Identify the specific ways in which to avoid ethical dilemmas


*This 3 hour ethics course may meet other state requirements for license renewal.*