

Unprofessional Conduct  
(numbered in accord with A.R.S.32-3251)

16. "Unprofessional conduct" includes the following, whether occurring in this state or elsewhere:

- (a) Conviction of a felony. Conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction or a plea of no contest is conclusive evidence of the conviction.
- (b) Use of fraud or deceit in connection with rendering services as a licensee or in establishing qualifications pursuant to this chapter.
- (c) Any oral or written misrepresentation of a fact by an applicant or licensee:
  - (i) To secure or attempt to secure the issuance or renewal of a license.
  - (ii) In any statements provided during an investigation or disciplinary proceeding by the board.
  - (iii) Regarding the licensee's skills or the value of any treatment provided or to be provided.
- (d) Any false, fraudulent or deceptive statement connected with the practice of behavioral health, including false or misleading advertising by the licensee or the licensee's staff or a representative compensated by the licensee.
- (e) Securing or attempting to secure the issuance or renewal of a license by knowingly taking advantage of the mistake of another person or the board.
- (f) Active habitual intemperance in the use of alcohol or active habitual substance abuse.
- (g) Using a controlled substance that is not prescribed for use during a prescribed course of treatment.
- (h) Obtaining a fee by fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

(i) Aiding or abetting a person who is not licensed pursuant to this chapter to purport to be a licensed behavioral health professional in this state.

(j) Conduct that the board determines is gross negligence or repeated negligence in the licensee's profession.

(k) Any conduct or practice that is contrary to recognized standards of ethics in the behavioral health profession or that constitutes a danger to the health, welfare or safety of a client.

(l) Any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession.

(m) Engaging or offering to engage as a licensee in activities that are not congruent with the licensee's professional education, training or experience.

(n) Failing to comply with or violating, attempting to violate or assisting in or abetting the violation of any provision of this chapter, any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter, any lawful order of the board, or any formal order, consent agreement, term of probation or stipulated agreement issued under this chapter.

(o) Failing to furnish information within a specified time to the board or its investigators or representatives if legally requested by the board.

(p) Failing to conform to minimum practice standards as developed by the board.

(q) Failing or refusing to maintain adequate records of behavioral health services provided to a client.

(r) Providing behavioral health services that are clinically unjustified or unsafe or otherwise engaging in activities as a licensee that are unprofessional by current standards of practice.

(s) Terminating behavioral health services to a client without making an appropriate referral for continuation of care for the client if continuing behavioral health services are indicated.

(t) Disclosing a professional confidence or privileged communication except as may otherwise be required by law or permitted by a valid written release.

(u) Failing to allow the board or its investigators on demand to examine and have access to documents, reports and records in any format maintained by the licensee that relate to the licensee's practice of behavioral health.

(v) Any sexual conduct between a licensee and a client or former client.

(w) Providing behavioral health services to any person with whom the licensee has had sexual contact.

(x) Exploiting a client, former client or supervisee. For the purposes of this subdivision, "exploiting" means taking advantage of a professional relationship with a client, former client or supervisee for the benefit or profit of the licensee.

(y) Engaging in a dual relationship with a client that could impair the licensee's objectivity or professional judgment or create a risk of harm to the client. For the purposes of this subdivision, "dual relationship" means a licensee simultaneously engages in both a professional and nonprofessional relationship with a client that is avoidable and not incidental.

(z) Engaging in physical contact between a licensee and a client if there is a reasonable possibility of physical or psychological harm to the client as a result of that contact.

(aa) Sexually harassing a client, former client, research subject, supervisee or coworker. For the purposes of this subdivision, "sexually harassing" includes sexual advances, sexual solicitation, requests for sexual favors, unwelcome comments or gestures or any other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

(bb) Harassing, exploiting or retaliating against a client, former client, research subject, supervisee, coworker or witness or a complainant in a disciplinary investigation or proceeding involving a licensee.

(cc) Failing to take reasonable steps to inform potential victims and appropriate authorities if the licensee becomes aware during the course of providing or supervising behavioral health services that a client's condition indicates a clear and imminent danger to the client or others.

(dd) Failing to comply with the laws of the appropriate licensing or credentialing authority to provide behavioral health services by electronic means in all governmental jurisdictions where the client receiving these services resides.

(ee) Giving or receiving a payment, kickback, rebate, bonus or other remuneration for a referral.

(ff) Failing to report in writing to the board information that would cause a reasonable licensee to believe that another licensee is guilty of unprofessional conduct or is physically or mentally unable to provide behavioral health services competently or safely. This duty does not extend to information provided by a licensee that is protected by the behavioral health professional-client privilege unless the information indicates a clear and imminent danger to the client or others or is otherwise subject to mandatory reporting requirements pursuant to state or federal law.

(gg) Failing to follow federal and state laws regarding the storage, use and release of confidential information regarding a client's personal identifiable information or care.

(hh) Failing to retain records pursuant to section 12-2297.

(ii) Violating any federal or state law, rule or regulation applicable to the practice of behavioral health.

(jj) Failing to make client records in the licensee's possession available in a timely manner to another health professional or licensee on receipt of proper authorization to do so from the client, a minor client's parent, the client's legal guardian or the client's authorized representative.

(kk) Failing to make client records in the licensee's possession promptly available to the client, a minor client's parent, the client's legal guardian or the client's authorized representative on receipt of proper

authorization to do so from the client, a minor client's parent, the client's legal guardian or the client's authorized representative.

(ll) Being the subject of the revocation, suspension, surrender or any other disciplinary sanction of a professional license, certificate or registration or other adverse action related to a professional license, certificate or registration in another jurisdiction or country, including the failure to report the adverse action to the board. The action taken may include refusing, denying, revoking or suspending a license or certificate, the surrendering of a license or certificate, otherwise limiting, restricting or monitoring a licensee or certificate holder or placing a licensee or certificate holder on probation.

(mm) Any conduct that results in a sanction imposed by an agency of the federal government that involves restricting, suspending, limiting or removing the licensee's ability to obtain financial remuneration for behavioral health services.

(nn) Violating the security of any licensure examination materials.

(oo) The use of fraud or deceit in connection with taking or assisting another person in taking a licensure examination.

Arizona Revised Statutes 32-3251. Definitions.

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