



# CODE OF ETHICS

WFTC is the major international member association practicing and promoting the Therapeutic Community methodology. This methodology promotes solution focused rather than problem focused approaches to treatment and rehabilitation. WFTC is aware that the programs and services provided by the member organizations deal with sensitive issues. WFTC takes serious the stewardship over the programs and interventions that affect personal, community, institutional and social values. Inherent in the mission of WFTC is the commitment to promote the human, civil, and legal rights and moral freedoms of those individuals who participate in Therapeutic Community based programs.

## **General Principles:**

WFTC members agree to the guiding principles of the Code of Ethics as a requirement for WFTC membership. Members agree to conduct services with the highest quality, integrity, and ethical standards of excellence.

WFTC members strive to benefit those whom they serve, and ensure that they do no harm. WFTC members safeguard the rights and welfare of the participants served. Because the decisions made by WFTC members affect the lives of others, members must guard against personal, financial, social, organizational, or political factors that might lead to misuse of their decisions or actions.

WFTC members are aware of their professional responsibilities to the communities and organizations in which they operate. WFTC members uphold professional standards of conduct, maintain professional roles and obligations, and seek to manage conflicts of interest that could result in harm.

## **A. Fidelity and Responsibility**

1. WFTC members seek to promote honesty, and accuracy in the teaching and practice of the T.C. methodology, and refrain from misrepresentation of fact.
2. WFTC members affirm that participants are provided fairness and equal quality in the processes, procedures and services they receive. WFTC members exercise reasonable judgement and take the necessary precautions to ensure that potential biases, their professional competence, and limitations of their expertise do not result in unjust or unlawful practices.

## **B. Integrity**

1. WFTC members respect the dignity, the rights to privacy and confidentiality, and self-determination of those served. WFTC members are aware that safeguards are necessary to protect the rights, and welfare of individuals who are being served.
2. WFTC members are aware of and respect cultural, individual, and social differences including those based on age, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, social orientation, disability, language, and socioeconomic status.



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## **C. No Harm**

1. WFTC members do not engage in sexual harassment or sexual exploitation. Sexual harassment is solicitation, physical advances, verbal or non-verbal conduct that is offensive and sexual in nature.
2. WFTC members do not engage in behavior that is harassing or demeaning to those with whom they work.
3. WFTC members take the necessary steps to avoid harming participants, students, research participants, and supervisees. WFTC members do not facilitate, condone, assist, or allow any physical and or emotional harm or degrading behavior in any form. This is defined as any act by which pain and suffering whether physical, mental, or psychological is intentionally inflicted on a person. In addition, there is no exploitation, such as financial incentives, bartering with participants, sexual intimacies with current or former participants, intimacies with relatives of current participants or financial transactions with participants other than published/agreed upon fees for services. As early as possible, fee practices are disclosed and not misrepresented. Barter (acceptance of goods, services, or non-monetary remuneration) should only occur if it is not clinically contraindicated and not exploitive.

## **D. Conflicting Relationships**

1. WFTC member staff refrain from entering into multiple relationships if the relationships could impair the objectivity, competence, or effectiveness in performing duties or otherwise exploit or render harm to the person with whom the professional relationship exists. WFTC staff refrain from a professional role when personal, scientific, legal, financial, or other interest could impair objectivity, competence or effectiveness.
2. WFTC member staff do not exploit clients/patients, students, supervisees. If due to unforeseen factors, a potentially harmful relationship has arisen, staff take the necessary steps to resolve the situation with consideration for the best interest of the affected person and compliance with the code of ethics.

## **E. Confidentiality and Consent**

1. WFTC member programs operate within the highest standards of confidentiality and patient protection procedures.
2. WFTC member programs have a fundamental obligation to take reasonable protections to protect confidential information obtained or stored in any medium.
3. Disclosures of confidential information is only permitted with consent, or when legally authorized.