

Ethics in counseling

Prepare an Ethical Consultation Question

Clinicians | 10 to 15 minutes

Use a deidentified example where professional values, duties, or competing interests create uncertainty. First address urgent safety needs and time-sensitive responsibilities. This page helps organize what you know and what you need to verify; it cannot decide what the law or professional code requires.

Distinguish facts from assumptions, identify the applicable authorities, and plan consultation before relying on a preferred interpretation.

Locate the conflict

Name whose interests and rights may be affected. Separate what occurred from predictions and personal discomfort. Identify the actual jurisdiction, professional role, setting, consent arrangements, and relevant policy questions without writing unnecessary identifiers.

Make the question answerable

Ask a qualified consultant about a specific uncertainty. Record which current code, rule, or policy needs checking and how you will document the decision process. A worksheet is not permission to postpone an action that is already required.

1. What specific ethical question remains unresolved after urgent needs are addressed?**2. Which verified facts, affected interests, and assumptions matter?****3. What current authority or qualified consultation do I need?****4. What action, rationale, and follow-up must I document accurately?****Clinical use and adaptation**

Protect confidentiality and use approved consultation channels. Rules vary by role, jurisdiction, setting, and facts. Do not present this as a reporting algorithm or legal compliance checklist. Seek appropriate current professional or legal guidance and document only steps actually taken.

Original educational resource. Adapt with a clinician; not a validated assessment or complete treatment protocol.

Conceptual references: S17, S05. Full sources are in the online preview and collection appendix.

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