

Code of Ethics

Approved by the ISHA Executive Board - Revised September 2024

Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association

(Adopted from the ASHA Code of Ethics, revised September 2024)

Preamble

The preservation of the highest standards of integrity and ethical principles is vital to the responsible discharge of obligations by speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists. This Code of Ethics sets forth the fundamental principles and rules considered essential to this purpose.

Every individual who is a member of the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association or an applicant for membership shall abide by this Code of Ethics.

Any action that violates the spirit and purpose of this Code shall be considered unethical. Failure to specify any particular responsibility or practice in this Code of Ethics shall not be construed as denial of the existence of such responsibilities or practices.

The fundamentals of ethical conduct are described by Principles of Ethics and by Rules of Ethics as they relate to responsibility to persons served, the public, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists, and to the conduct of research and scholarly activities.

Principles of Ethics, aspirational and inspirational in nature, form the underlying moral basis for the Code of Ethics. Individuals shall observe these principles as affirmative obligations under all conditions of professional activity.

Rules of Ethics are specific statements of minimally acceptable professional conduct or of prohibitions and are applicable to all individuals.

Principle of Ethics I

Individuals shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve professionally or who are participants in research and scholarly activities and they shall treat animals involved in re-search in a humane manner.

Rules of Ethics

- A. Individuals shall provide all services competently.
- B. Individuals shall use every resource, including referral when appropriate, to ensure that high-quality service is provided.
- C. Individuals shall not discriminate in the delivery of professional services or the conduct of research and scholarly activities on the basis of race or ethnicity; gender; gender identity/gender expression; genetic information; age; citizenship; religion; national origin, including culture, language, dialect, and accent; sex; sexual orientation; disability; or veteran status.
- D. Individuals shall not misrepresent the credentials of assistants, technicians, support personnel, students, Clinical Fellows, or any others under their supervision, and they shall inform those they serve professionally of the name and professional credentials of persons providing services.
- E. Individuals who hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence shall not delegate tasks that require the unique skills, knowledge, and judgment that are within the scope of their profession to assistants, technicians, support personnel, or any nonprofessionals over whom they have supervisory responsibility.

- F. Individuals who hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence may delegate tasks related to provision of clinical services to assistants, technicians, support personnel, or any other persons only if those services are appropriately supervised, realizing that the responsibility for client welfare remains with the certified individual.
- G. Individuals who hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence may delegate tasks related to provision of clinical services that require the unique skills, knowledge, and judgment that are within the scope of practice of their profession to students only if those services are appropriately supervised. The responsibility for client welfare remains with the certified individual.
- H. Individuals shall fully inform the persons they serve of the nature and possible effects of services rendered and products dispensed, and they shall inform participants in research about the possible effects of their participation in re-search conducted.
- I. Individuals shall evaluate the effectiveness of services rendered and of products dispensed, and they shall provide services or dispense products only when benefit can reasonably be expected.
- J. Individuals shall not guarantee the results of any treatment or procedure, directly or by implication; however, they may make a reasonable statement of prognosis.
- K. Individuals shall not provide clinical services solely by correspondence.
- L. Individuals may practice by telecommunication (for example, telehealth/e-health), where not prohibited by law.
- M. Individuals shall adequately maintain and appropriately secure records of professional services rendered, research and scholarly activities conducted, and products dispensed and they shall allow access to these records only when authorized or when required by law.
- N. Individuals shall not reveal, without authorization, any professional or personal information about identified persons served professionally or identified participants involved in research and scholarly activities unless doing so is necessary to protect the welfare of the person or of the community or is otherwise required by law.
- O. Individuals shall not charge for services not rendered, nor shall they misrepresent services rendered, products dispensed, or research and scholarly activities conducted.
- P. Individuals shall enroll and include persons as participants in research teaching demonstrations only if their participation is voluntary, without coercion, and with their informed consent.
- Q. Individuals whose professional services are adversely affected by substance abuse or other health-related conditions shall seek professional assistance and, where appropriate, withdraw from the affected areas of practice.
- R. Individuals shall not discontinue service to those they are serving without providing reasonable notice.

Principle of Ethics II

Individuals shall honor their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of professional competence and performance.

Rules of Ethics

- A. Individuals shall engage in the provision of clinical services only when they hold an appropriate professional credential or when they are in the clinical certification process and are supervised by an individual who holds the appropriate Certificate of Clinical Competence (ASHA).
- B. Individuals shall engage in only those aspects of the professions that are within the scope of their professional practice and competence, considering their level of education, training, and experience.
- C. Individuals shall engage in lifelong learning to maintain and enhance professional competence and performance.
- D. Individuals shall not require or permit their professional staff to provide services or conduct research activities that exceed the staff member's competence, level of education, training, and experience.
- E. Individuals shall ensure that all equipment used to provide services or to conduct research and scholarly activities is in proper working order and is properly calibrated.

Principle of Ethics III

Individuals shall honor their responsibility to the public by promoting public understanding of the professions, by supporting the development of services designed to fulfill the unmet needs of the public, and by providing accurate information in all communications involving any aspect of the professions, including the dissemination of research

findings and scholarly activities, and the promotion, marketing, and advertising of products and services.

Rules of Ethics

- A. Individuals shall not misrepresent their credentials, competence, education, training, experience, or scholarly or research contributions.
- B. Individuals shall not participate in professional activities that constitute a conflict of interest.
- C. Individuals shall refer those served professionally solely on the basis of the interest of those being referred and not on any personal interest, financial or otherwise.
- D. Individuals shall not misrepresent diagnostic information, research, services rendered, results of services rendered, products dispensed, or the effects of products dispensed.
- E. Individuals shall not defraud or engage in any scheme to defraud in connection with obtaining payment, reimbursement, or grants for services rendered, research conducted, or products dispensed.
- F. Individuals' statements to the public shall provide accurate information about the nature and management of communication disorders, about the professions, about professional services, about products for sale, and about research and scholarly activities.
- G. Individuals' statements to the public when advertising, announcing, and marketing their professional services, reporting research results, and promoting products—shall adhere to professional standards and shall not contain misrepresentations.

Principle of Ethics IV

Individuals shall honor their responsibilities to the professions and their relationships with colleagues, students, and members of other professions and disciplines.

Rules of Ethics

- A. Individuals shall uphold the dignity and autonomy of the professions, maintain harmonious interprofessional and intraprofessional relationships, and accept the professions; self-impose standards.
- B. Individuals shall prohibit anyone under their supervision from engaging in any practice that violates the Code of Ethics.
- C. Individuals shall not engage in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.
- D. Individuals shall not engage in any form of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment or power abuse.
- E. Individuals shall not engage in any other form of conduct that adversely reflects on the professions or on the individual's fitness to serve persons professionally.
- F. Individuals shall not engage in sexual activities with clients, students, or research participants over whom they exercise professional authority or power.
- G. Individuals shall assign credit only to those who have contributed to a publication, presentation, or product. Credit shall be assigned in proportion to the contribution and only with the contributor's consent.
- H. Individuals shall reference the source when using other persons' ideas, research, presentations, or products in written, oral, or any other media presentation or summary.
- I. Individuals' statements to colleagues about professional services, research results, and products shall adhere to prevailing professional standards and shall contain no misrepresentations.
- J. Individuals shall not provide professional services without exercising independent professional judgment, regardless of referral source or prescription.
- K. Individuals shall not discriminate in their relationships with colleagues, students, and members of other professions or individuals under their supervision on the basis of race or ethnicity; gender; gender identity/gender expression; genetic information; age; citizenship; religion; national origin, including culture, language, dialect, and accent; sex; sexual orientation; disability; socioeconomic status; or veteran status.
- L. Individuals shall not file or encourage others to file complaints that disregard or ignore facts that

would disprove the allegation, nor should the Code of Ethics be used for personal reprisal, as a means of addressing personal animosity, or as a vehicle for retaliation.

- M. Individuals who have reason to believe that the Code of Ethics has been violated (1) shall inform the Ethics Education Committee Chair if the involved ISHA member is **not** a member of ASHA, (2) shall inform the ASHA Board of Ethics if the involved ISHA member is also a member of ASHA, and (3) shall inform the Ethics Boards of other professional organizations, as appropriate. If the complaint involves a violation of Illinois law, the appropriate State Division Office shall be informed by the complainant.
- N. Individuals shall comply fully with the policies of involved offices and boards in their consideration and adjudication of complaints in ethical and legal matters.

Complaint Management

The ISHA Ethics Education Committee will advise on filing complaints of possible violation of the Code of Ethics; the Committee itself does not serve in an adjudicative capacity. Complaints received for review by the ISHA Ethics Education Committee must be written and signed, and may come from professionals who may be members or non-members of ISHA, or from consumers of our professional services. If the complaint involves a violation of Illinois law, the individual making the complaint will be referred to the appropriate Illinois State agency or board that has specific procedures for investigating and processing complaints, as well as for imposing informal and formal actions that may be taken. If the complaint involves a possible violation of the ASHA Code of Ethics or the Code of Ethics of another professional organization that provides certification for its members, and the subject of the complaint is an ASHA member, and/or a member of another professional organization, the individual making the complaint will be referred to the Board of Ethics of that association. If formal action is taken by one of these regulating bodies, the ISHA Ethics Education Committee will provide comment if requested.