



# Preventing & Managing Common Ethical Predicaments

Presented by

## Gerald P. Koocher, Ph.D., ABPP

*This program addresses a range of challenging ethical and problematic clinical situations frequently encountered in mental health practice.*

### Key topics include:

Addressing complex and subtle aspects about respecting confidentiality across a range of clients, institutions, and contexts.

Addressing challenges that arise in the course of treatment, such as angry clients, unpaid bills, sub-optimal terminations, reporting mandates, and multiple-client therapies.

Working with clients who pose threats against themselves or others, clinical and risk management with suicidal clients, and what to do when the licensing board comes calling.

Focus on the ethical challenges posed by social media and electronically mediated service delivery, as well as problematic self-disclosure, assertions of specialty expertise, conflicting mandates, and legal entanglements.

### Objectives Participants will be able to describe:

- How to improve confidentiality and record keeping
- Necessary precautions when accessing clinical materials
- Confidentiality errors with minors or deceased clients
- How to deal with unhappy, angry, or threatening clients
- Strategies for providing ethical care of suicidal clients
- How to deal with licensing board ethics investigations
- How to establish professional social media policies
- Ethical electronic medical records policies
- How best to assess and present one's expertise or specialty competencies
- How to avoid common legal entanglements in clinical practice

**6 Hours Ethics CE Credits (Social Workers Receive 5.5 Ethics CE Credits)**

### What do you know and who will you tell?

- Understanding the subtleties of confidentiality
- Required notifications and breaches
- Discussing confidential material with colleagues
- Insurance companies and other third party disclosures
- When the client is a minor or deceased
- When the subpoena arrives

### You're helping me, but I hate you. Ethical Challenges in the Course of Treatment

- Unhappy, angry, and dangerous clients
- The unpaid bill
- Sub-optimal terminations
- Reporting mandates and challenges
- The challenge of multiple-client therapies

### Managing Urgent Situations

- Addressing threats to: Others, Oneself & The Therapist
- Managing the suicidal client
- When the licensing board (or ethics complaint) comes calling

### Pushing Boundaries

- The ethical perils of social media
- Mutual Googling
- E-therapy & assessment - Electronic & inoperable record keeping
- Self-disclosure and self-care
- Addressing conflicting mandates & avoiding legal forensic entanglements

## Gerald P. Koocher, Ph.D.

Dr. Koocher's career has always included components of patient care, clinical and classroom teaching, and behavioral science research.

He received his Ph.D. in Clinical and Developmental Psychology from the University of Missouri in 1972. He has been an Associate Professor of Psychology within the Harvard Medical School Department of Psychiatry and a Lecturer for Boston College. He is currently Professor of Psychology and Dean of the College of Science and Health at DePaul University.

He has held numerous leadership positions within the American Psychological Association, including: President Div. of Psychotherapy, President Div. of

Clinical Psychology, and President of the APA (2006). He also serves as board chair of The Trust (formerly the APA Insurance Trust).

He has served as an expert witness in 14 states and 4 federal court jurisdictions in cases involving mental health malpractice, research ethics and institutional review board litigation, child welfare, and wrongful death torts.

Dr. Koocher has authored over 150 publications, including the 2008 edition of Ethics in Psychology and the Mental Health Professions: Standards and Cases .

Dr. Koocher lectures across the country. His 2001 and 2008 J&K presentations were well received, interesting, and useful.

**Approved CE Home Study for Psychologists Counselors Social Workers Nurses MFT AOTA**

Available for an additional fee - See Exam Enclosed

## Accreditations

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*This course has been approved by J&K Seminars, LLC, as a **NAADAC Approved Education Provider**, for educational credits. NAADAC Provider #757, J&K Seminars, LLC is responsible for all aspects of the programming*

***American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)***

***Pennsylvania Department of Education – Act 48 approved***

***Pennsylvania Certification Board***

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