

INTRODUCTION

AssoCounseling has implemented this code of ethics to standardize the relations stemming from exercising profession of counselor.

The code of ethics is the set of rules and principles of conduct to which all members of AssoCounseling must abide by.

Compliance to this code of conduct, and compliance with the rules and regulations contained therein, is a prerequisite for enrollment in AssoCounseling and the issuing of the Certificate of Professional Competence in Counseling (C.C.P.C.).

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

First

This ethical code contains the principles and rules for which the counselor, certified by AssoCounseling in the Italian Registry of Counselors of AssoCounseling (R.I.C.A.) - hereinafter referred to as counselor - must observe.

The counselor is committed to respect and protect the fundamental rights of every person and respect their individuality.

Second

The skills of the counselor are formed through training courses, continuing education and supervision, as established in the internal regulations of AssoCounseling.

The counselor respects the internal regulations of the association that concern him/her.

The counselor recognizes the boundaries of his/her area of expertise and is committed to working exclusively within this area.

Third

The counselor assumes professional responsibility for his actions, respecting the rights of the person, acting with transparency, congruence and honesty, describing his/her professional role, skills and methodology.

Fourth

AssoCounseling recognizes as fundamental the principles of honesty, transparency, congruence, respect of human rights and dignity, and these principles must be respected by its members who share these values and make it the foundation which to build their work on.

CODE OF ETHICS

CHAPTER 1 - PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Article 1

(Obligation of ethical rules)

1. This code of ethics shall be respected by all those who are members of AssoCounseling.
2. The counselor is required to comply with the laws of the Italian State or foreign State where he operates and be in compliance with this code of ethics.

Article 2

(Breach of the rules and penalties)

1. The ethical responsibility is personal.
2. Failure to comply with this code will result in the application of penalties laid down in art. 12 of Regulation R08 (disciplinary proceedings) in accordance with the provisions of art. 19 of the Statute of AssoCounseling. The sanctions imposed will be commensurate with the gravity of the acts or omissions committed.
3. The disciplinary procedure is obligatory and continues up to its completion, even if the member of AssoCounseling is deleted by the R.I.C.A.

CHAPTER 2 –OBLIGATIONS OF THE COUNSELOR

Article 3

(Decorum and dignity)

1. The profession must be carried out in accordance with the principles of decorum and dignity and is based on freedom and autonomy.

Article 4

(Professional competence)

1. The counselor works within the scope of his/her profession, respecting the role of other disciplines.
2. The counselor recognizes the limits of his jurisdiction and provides the client with information about his/her profession and the methodology of his/her work.

3. The counselor should not lead the client to false expectations, should not have misused the trust of the professional relationship in order to achieve unfair advantages and should not take advantage of any influence he/she may have on the client.

4. The counselor maintains an appropriate level of professional training and keeps his/her expertise current in regards to his/her level of accreditation as required by the Internal Regulations.

Article 5
(Compliance with the client)

1. The counselor adheres to the respect for freedom and human dignity, respecting the right to privacy, self-determination and autonomy of his/her clients.

2. There is no discrimination based on gender, religion, nationality, ideology, social extraction, economic conditions, political beliefs, sexual orientation or disability.

Article 6
(Dissemination of ethical principles)

1. The counselor, recognizing in this code the cornerstones for the development of the profession, is committed to the training and / or dissemination, of the content of this code to third parties with whom he/she comes into contact for the above-mentioned activities.

Article 7
(Professional activity with animals and respect for the environment)

1. The counselor is committed to respecting the environment including the plant and animal kingdoms.

CHAPTER 3 - CLIENT RELATIONS

Article 8
(Freedom of choice)

1. The counselor respects the client's right to choose the professional to work with.

2. The counselor, if deemed appropriate, and / or requested by the client, may seek the advice of other professionals.

Article 9
(Confidentiality)

1. The counselor is required to comply with applicable laws governing the processing of the client's personal data and third parties with whom it comes into contact in connection with the exercise of professional activity.
2. The right to privacy also concerns all documentation relating to professional services that must be maintained in accordance with local regulations.
3. Regarding filming and / or audio-visual recordings, the counselor is required to collect, in accordance with local regulations, the consent of the client.
4. Any type of communication the counselor makes, weather within scientific conferences or educational activities of any kind, is required to avoid any reference that could lead to an identification related to what was discussed in the communication.

Article 10
(Remuneration)

1. The counselor informs from the first session, the remuneration for his services, which cannot be subject to the outcome of the transaction.

Article 11
(Limits)

1. The counselor recognizes the limits of his/her professional intervention.
2. If the counselor believes the client needs a different course of action, he/she will send the client to the appropriate professional.

Article 12
(Informed consent)

1. At the beginning of the process, the counselor will provide all the necessary information to the client so that they are able to give an informed consent.

Article 13
(Professional services programs for children)

1. Professional services to minors are subject to informed consent - documented - that must be issued by those who have parental authority or by the appointed guardian.

2. The counselor should be aware of any potential disputes between the parents and as well as the legal status of the minor.

Article 14
(Client confidentiality)

1. The counselor is required to keep client confidentiality.
2. The death of the client does not exempt from the obligation of client confidentiality.
3. The counselor must inform any co-workers of the obligation of client confidentiality on what has been discussed.
4. The counselor working with groups must inform the participants from the beginning about the rule of confidentiality.

Article 15
(Client Confidentiality regarding minors)

1. Minors have the right to confidentiality with regard to those who exercise parental authority.
2. If client confidentiality poses harm to the minor, the counselor must report the situation to the person(s) exercising parental authority, notifying the minor prior that this information will be divulged.
3. If the counselor, during the course of his/her professional work, becomes aware of any form of exploitation and/or rape of a minor by a third party - even with a consenting minor - must take into consideration the best interest of the minor - take legal responsibility - and needs to consider the possibility of violating client confidentiality, reporting the situation to the person exercising parental authority or, in the case of inaction or complicity of the same, inform the appropriate judicial authority.

Article 16
(Exceptions to confidentiality)

1. Counselor is obligated to break client confidentiality when there is a legitimate need by the judicial court or in all cases commanded by law.
2. The counselor will make the client aware of this obligation.
3. In this case, the counselor will report only what he/she has heard directly in the professional relationship.
4. Breach of client confidentiality is also allowed only with the written consent of the client, provided it does not infringing on the right to privacy of other individuals.

Article 17

(Commingling between work and private life)

1. The counselor must avoid commingling between his/her professional role and private life that can interfere with his/her professional activity.
2. The counselor must not work with individuals that he/she has had or has a personal, emotional, romantic or sexual relationship with.
3. It is a serious professional misconduct to establish with the client the types of relationships stated above in the course of the professional relationship.

Article 18

(Interruption of professional relationship)

1. The counselor must evaluate whether to interrupt the professional relationship when it brings no benefit to the client and provide the client with all the information necessary for the continuation of the work with other professionals.
3. The counselor must terminate the work if he recognizes the clients' need for a different type of professional help.
3. The counselor can also terminate the professional relationship for just cause such as, but not limited to, relocation or illness.

Article 19

(Delivery of documentation)

1. At the request of the client or to another professional – in this case in accordance with the client - the counselor is required to provide documentation in his/her possession which is considered necessary for the continuation of the work.

Article 20

(Research)

1. When doing research, the counselor must inform the interested parties a priori in order to obtain their informed consent.
2. It is in the right of the participants that they may withdraw consent and/or withdraw from the research.
3. If the research involves a minor, the counselor must acquire such consent from the parental authority or guardianship, keeping the right of the minor involved to withdraw from the research.

Article 21
(Counseling online)

1. The principles and provisions of this code shall also apply in the case in which the service is performed remotely via internet, email or any other electronic means and/or computer.

CHAPTER 4 - RELATIONSHIP WITH COLLEAGUES

Article 22
(Mutual respect)

1. The counselor forges relationships with colleagues with the underlying principles of respect, loyalty and honesty.
2. The counselor shall refrain from any negative judgments about colleagues on their work and not offend their ability and professional competence.

**CHAPTER 5 - RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIETY AND WITH
THIRD PARTIES**

Article 23
(Freedom and autonomy)

1. The counselor who establishes a working relationship with public or private entities, companies or institutions, only accepts on the condition it does not affect his/her independence and professional freedom, or in any way creates the inability to keep the professional code.

Article 24
(Client different from recipient)

1. The counselor, when acting on behalf of a client who is different from the recipient of the services, foremost protects the recipient and clarifies adequately to both parties the nature and purpose of the service.
2. If there is a conflict of interest between the client and the recipient, the counselor shall endeavour to overcome it and, if that is not possible, should resign.

Article 25
(Advertising)

1. The counselor presents him/herself to potential clients in a fair and upright manner with regards to his/her training and competence.
2. The counselor does not advertise with content that misleads the potential client with respect to his/her professional skills.
3. The counselor does not use inappropriate behavior to obtain clients.

Article 26
(Association of professionals)

1. The counselor who practices through an association of professionals, is directly responsible for the work he/she performs.

CHAPTER 6 - IMPLEMENTATION

Article 27
(Implementation of the code)

1. This Code shall enter into force thirty days after its ratification by the next General Meeting.
2. Pending the ratification of this code, all members are committed to compliance with this code.

This code of ethics was approved by the General Meeting in March 13, 2010.

This document is classified by AssoCounseling with the unique code D03.