



TENNESSEE COUNSELING  
ASSOCIATION  
*A Branch of the American Counseling Association*

## **Tennessee Counseling Association**

### **CODE OF ETHICS**

Professional Counselors are dedicated to service to society. This service is committed to profound faith in the worth, dignity, and great potentiality of the individual human being.

The marks of a professional can be stated as follows:

1. Possession of a body of specialized knowledge, skills, and attitudes known and practiced by its members.
2. This body of specialized knowledge, skills, and attitude is derived through scientific inquiry and scholarly learning.
3. This body of specialized knowledge, skills, and attitudes is acquired through professional preparation, preferably on the graduate level, in a college or university as well as through continuous in-service training and personal growth after completion of formal education.
4. This body of specialized knowledge, skills, and attitudes is constantly tested and extended through research and scholarly inquiry.
5. A profession has a literature of its own, even though it may, and indeed must, draw portions of its content from other areas of knowledge.
6. A profession exalts service to the individual and society above personal gain. It possesses a philosophy and a code of ethics.
7. A profession through the voluntary association of its members constantly examines and improves the quality of its professional preparation and services to the individual and society.
8. Membership in the professional organization and the practice of the profession must be limited to persons meeting stated standards of preparation and competencies.
9. The profession affords a life career and permanent membership as long as services meet professional standards.
10. The public recognizes, has confidence in, and is willing to compensate the members of the profession for their services.
11. The member exerts what influence he/she can to foster the development and improvement of the profession and continues his/her professional growth throughout his/her career.



TENNESSEE COUNSELING  
ASSOCIATION  
*A Branch of the American Counseling Association*

12. The member has a responsibility to the institution within which he/she serves. His/her acceptance of employment by the institution implies that he/she is in substantial agreement with the general policies and principles of the institution. Within the member's own work settings, if, despite his/her efforts, he/she cannot reach agreement as to acceptable ethical standards of conduct with his/her superiors, he/she should end his/her affiliation with them.
13. The member must expect ethical behavior among his/her professional associates at all times. He/she is obligated, in situations where he/she possesses information raising serious doubt as to the ethical behavior of other members, to attempt to rectify such conditions.
14. The member is obligated to concern him/herself with the degree to which the personnel functions of non-members with whose work he/she is acquainted represent competent and ethical performance. Where his/her information raises serious doubt as to the ethical behavior of such persons, it is his/her responsibility to attempt to rectify such conditions.
15. The member must not seek self-enhancement through expressing evaluations or comparisons damaging to other ethical professional workers.
16. The member should not claim or imply professional qualifications exceeding those possessed and is responsible for correcting any misrepresentations of his/her qualifications by others.
17. The member who provides information to the public or to his/her subordinates, peers, or superiors has a clear responsibility to see that both the content and the manner of presentation are accurate and appropriate to the situation.
18. The member has an obligation to insure that evaluative information about such persons as clients, students, and applicants shall be shared only with those persons who will use such information for professional purposes.
19. The member shall offer professional services only through the context of a professional relationship.