

Idaho Certified Peer Support Specialist Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct

Peer Support is a helping relationship between mental health clients and Certified Peer Support Specialists. The primary responsibility of Certified Peer Support Specialists is to help those they serve achieve self-directed recovery. They believe that every individual has strengths and the ability to learn and grow. As such, Certified Peer Support Specialists are committed to providing and advocating for effective recovery-based services for the people they serve in order for them to meet their own needs, desires, and goals.

1. Certified Peer Support Specialists seek to role-model recovery.
2. Certified Peer Support Specialists respect the rights and dignity of those they serve.
3. Certified Peer Support Specialists respect the privacy and confidentiality of those they serve.
4. Certified Peer Support Specialists openly share their personal recovery stories with colleagues and those they serve.
5. Certified Peer Support Specialists maintain high standards of personal conduct and conduct themselves in a manner that fosters their own recovery.
6. Certified Peer Support Specialists never intimidate, threaten, or harass those they serve; never use undue influence, physical force, or verbal abuse with those they serve; and never make unwarranted promises of benefits to those they serve.
7. Certified Peer Support Specialists do not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, or mental or physical disability.
8. Certified Peer Support Specialists never engage in sexual/intimate activities with colleagues or those they serve.
9. Certified Peer Support Specialists do not accept gifts of significant value from those they serve.
10. Certified Peer Support Specialists do not enter into dual relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of those they serve.
11. Certified Peer Support Specialists do not abuse substances under any circumstances while they are employed as a Certified Peer Support Specialist.
12. Certified Peer Support Specialists work to equalize the power differentials that may occur in the peer support/client relationship.
13. Certified Peer Support Specialists ensure that all information and documentation provided is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge.
14. Certified Peer Support Specialists keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery, and openly share this knowledge with their colleagues and those they serve.
15. Certified Peer Support Specialists remain aware of their skills and limitations, and do not provide services or represent themselves as expert in areas for which they do not have sufficient knowledge or expertise.
16. Certified Peer Support Specialists do not hold a clinical role and do not offer primary treatment for mental health issues, prescribe medicine, act as a legal representative or provide legal advice, participate in the determination of competence, or provide counseling, therapy, social work, drug testing, or diagnosis of symptoms and disorders.

Certified Peer Support Specialists must complete ethics training approved by the certifying body at least once per year and maintain personal documentation of completed ethics training.

Certified Peer Support Specialists must understand and adhere to Idaho's Certified Peer Support Specialist Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct. A Code of Ethics violation is the failure to do so. Individuals who have violated the Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct will follow the process for corrective action put forth by the certifying body approved by the Idaho Division of Behavioral Health.