

TeachME Professional Development

Ethical Considerations When Working With School-Aged Children

The Basics

1. The fundamental intent of confidentiality is to protect a client's right to privacy by ensuring that matters disclosed to a professional not be relayed to others without the informed consent of the client, and in discussing confidentiality, therapists also hope to encourage:

- A. Trust
 - B. Rapport
 - C. Communication
 - D. Acceptance
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2. States vary in the degree to which their laws specify limitations on privileged communication between counseling professionals and minor clients, with some protecting only disclosures about problems related to alcohol and other drugs, and others giving broad protection, specifying a few exceptions such as reporting child abuse and crime or potential criminal activity.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Children's Assent

3. While advocacy for minors' rights in education and mental health has led to greater consideration of the rights of children and adolescents to be involved in making decisions that affect them, long-standing controversies have reemerged about the risks and benefits of young people's involvement in decision making and their competence to make appropriate decisions.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Consent

4. Each of the following is a main function served by the informed consent mechanism EXCEPT:

- A. The promotion of individual autonomy and the protection of clients or subjects

- B. The avoidance of fraud and duress and the promotion of rational decisions
 - C. The encouragement of self-scrutiny by professionals and the involvement of the public in promoting autonomy as a general social value
 - D. The promotion of collaboration between the therapist and client to ensure an interactive and thought-provoking process
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Involving Parents in Counseling

5. Experts such as Ed Deci and colleagues contend that one way to encourage family cooperation and involvement in the therapeutic process is to use practices that enhance feelings of acceptance, usefulness, and engagement.

- A. True
 - B. False
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6. When making initial therapeutic contacts with family members, factors to consider include using the consent process to assess and enhance motivation, contracting for involvement, handling concerns about privacy and confidentiality, and managing parent reactions to initial contacts and assessment.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Maintaining Motivation and Involvement During the Process

7. Strategies for maintaining motivation throughout an intervention include ensuring parents feel a growing sense of relatedness to the intervener, enhancing valuing by providing many desirable ways for parents to participate and by facilitating their decision making, and providing continuing support for:

- A. Affirmation, productivity, and problem-solving
 - B. Learning, growth, and success
 - C. Connecting, resolving conflicts, and reaching goals
 - D. Enhancing positivity, empowerment, and skill-building
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Concluding Comments

8. Interveners who want to enlist parent involvement must be clear about the value and forms of such involvement as well as the:

- A. Risks

- B. Complications
 - C. Barriers
 - D. Feasibility
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Limits to Confidentiality for the Student

9. One benefit of encouraging adolescents to share personal stories or feelings is that while learning how to honor the privacy of others, young people are also learning how to respect boundaries, which may be weak or unclear at this age.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Empowering Clients to Share Information

10. In a helping relationship, a fundamental concern of the professional is to act in the best interest of the client, as defined mutually by the client and the clinician.

- A. True
 - B. False
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A Brief Discussion of Minor Consent

11. The most important reason to maintain confidentiality in the delivery of health care is to:

- A. Encourage adolescents to seek necessary care
 - B. Support adolescents' growing sense of privacy and autonomy
 - C. Protect them from the humiliation and discrimination that could result from disclosure of confidential information
 - D. Empower them to make decisions regarding their needs
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Who Should Know What?-Confidentiality and Information Sharing in Service Integration

12. One of the most commonly cited obstacles to interagency collaboration is the existence of confidentiality provisions that appear to restrict agencies from working together when treating children and adolescents.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Working With Computerized Information

13. In developing a computerized data system and using it effectively, agencies should determine the purpose of the system, obtain the cooperation of all participating agencies, develop thorough security procedures, train staff carefully, and:

- A. Clearly identify functional characteristics of the system
 - B. Provide notices to clients
 - C. Establish access in terms of convenience and reliability
 - D. Ensure data quality
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Critical Issue: Addressing Confidentiality Concerns in School-Linked Integrated Service Efforts-Goals

14. Which of the following is NOT one of the authors' recommended goals for sharing information within collaborative school-linked service efforts?

- A. Collaborative partners reach consensus concerning what information needs to be shared, reasons for sharing that information, and reasons for protecting the privacy of children and families
 - B. Each client's right to privacy is balanced with the organization's need to share information and effectively serve the client and procedures are in place to guarantee confidentiality will be upheld
 - C. School and agency staff are aware of the school's rights in sharing information and are knowledgeable about distinct policies pertaining to privacy protocol and accountability issues
 - D. Clients are kept informed continually of what information will be shared, with whom, and for what purpose
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Implementation Pitfalls

15. In rare instances when a parent or student does not want to give consent, the counselor or service provider should try to determine, without putting pressure on the individual, why the person is refusing to give consent and then seek review of this concern by the involved partners.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

16. Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record, but FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to school officials with legitimate educational interest, other schools to which a student is transferring, and to specified officials for:

- A. Use in school reference materials
 - B. Social service functions
 - C. State or district data collection
 - D. Audit or evaluation purposes
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What Parents Need to Know About Confidentiality

17. When students enter into a counseling relationship with their school counselor, the school counselor will educate the student about the specifics of the counseling process including purposes, goals, techniques, and:

- A. Student needs
 - B. Motivation to change
 - C. Rules of procedure under which they may receive counseling
 - D. Evaluation and assessment practices
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18. Although group counseling is an efficient way of to deal with students' problems and concerns, allowing individuals to develop insights into themselves and others, confidentiality is much more difficult to guarantee than in an individual setting.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Balancing Student Privacy and School Safety: A Guide to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act for Elementary and Secondary Schools

19. FERPA prohibits a school official from disclosing information about a student if the information is obtained through the school official's personal knowledge or observation, and not from the student's education records.

- A. True
 - B. False
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American Academy of Pediatrics: Policy Statement Confidentiality in Adolescent Health Care

20. When treating adolescents, health professionals have an obligation to make reasonable effort to encourage the adolescent to involve parents, whose support can, in many circumstances, increase the potential for dealing with the adolescent's problems on a continuing basis.

- A. True
 - B. False
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American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Position Statement: Confidentiality

21. While confidentiality is an ethical term denoting a counseling practice relevant to privacy, privileged communication is a legal term denoting a requirement to protect the privacy between counselor and student.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Limiting Confidentiality of Adolescent Health Services: What Are the Risks?

22. When working with adolescent girls, the authors recommend considering each of the following EXCEPT:

- A. The patient's chronological age
 - B. Cognitive and psychological development
 - C. Exposure to abuse or exploitation, other health related behaviors, and prior family communication
 - D. Prior history and experiences with the client
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Guidelines and Models

23. Reviews of privacy protections and confidentiality restrictions in federal and state constitutions, statutes, regulations, and agency practices, as well as those in various professional standards indicate that confidentiality restrictions are significant barriers to interagency collaborations.

- A. True
 - B. False
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24. The most common way of information-sharing among agencies takes place through informal exchanges, usually verbal and by telephone.

- A. True
 - B. False
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25. When interagency professionals have developed a high degree of trust and cooperation, a written release is not required to share or exchange student documents.

- A. True
 - B. False
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26. In using aggregate information systems, particularly automated information systems containing identifiable information, protective mechanisms must be in place to ensure the proper disclosure of confidential information.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Guidelines for Protecting Confidential Student Health Information

27. Ethical responsibilities and legal obligations for protecting student health information ensure that uniform standards for collecting and recording student health information are established and that the disclosure of confidential health information within the school is limited to information necessary to:

- A. Protect the student from immediate harm
 - B. Guarantee that the best interests of the student and parents are considered
 - C. Benefit students' health or education
 - D. Coordinate care between agencies
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Confidentiality-Protocol for Issues of Confidentiality in Public Schools

28. While it is important that teachers are aware of the rights of individuals to privacy and to respect the confidential nature of information concerning students, they may consult and collaborate with other professionals for purposes of more effectively helping the student.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Legal Proceedings

29. Teachers and other school personnel must be aware of policies for sharing information with legal authorities, as police and probation officers have an inherent right to access all student records.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Protecting the Privacy of Student Records-Principles and Concepts

30. Schools that participate in a federally assisted school nutrition program have personal information about students' eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals, and these programs have regulations that are more restrictive than FERPA's regarding the disclosure and use of this information.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Important Terms

31. Privacy is a uniquely personal right that reflects an individual's:

- A. Freedom from intrusion
 - B. Exemption from public attention
 - C. Immunity from disruption
 - D. Absolution from interference
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Confidentiality in Schools: Do You Know What to Do?

32. Although school psychologists are ethically obligated to keep records of their work, they are to document only information that is necessary to provide services.

- A. True
 - B. False
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