

A Model Code of Ethics for Peer Specialists

The primary responsibility of the Peer Specialist is to help those they serve achieve self-directed recovery, advocating for the full integration of individuals into communities of their choice. The following principles guide Peer Specialists in their various professional roles, relationships, and areas of responsibility.

1. Peer Specialists believe that every individual has strengths and the ability to learn and grow.
2. Peer Specialists respect the rights and dignity of those they serve.
3. Peer Specialists openly share their personal recovery stories with colleagues and those they serve.
4. Peer Specialists seek to role-model recovery.
5. Peer Specialists respect the privacy and confidentiality of those they serve.
6. Peer 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. Peer Specialists do not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate in 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. Peer Specialists maintain high standards of personal conduct.
9. Peer Specialists conduct themselves in a manner that fosters their own recovery, maintaining healthy behaviors.
10. Peer Specialists do not enter into dual relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of those they serve.
11. Peer Specialists never engage in sexual/intimate activities with colleagues or those they serve.
12. Peer Specialists do not accept gifts of significant value from those they serve.
13. Peer Specialists keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery, and openly share this knowledge with their colleagues and those they serve.

- DBSA Peer-to-Peer Resource Center, 2004