
Ethical Standards in Couples and Family Therapy

- Responsibility to clients
 - Confidentiality
 - Professional competence and integrity
 - Responsibility to students, employees, and supervisees
 - Responsibility to research participants
 - Responsibility to the professions
 - Fees
 - Advertising
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Training Issues in Couples and Family Therapy

- Personal Characteristics of Family Therapists
 - **self-knowledge is critical, especially family-of-origin issues**
 - Training, Supervision, and Clinical Experience
 - **didactic methods**
 - **experiential methods**
 - Values in Couples and Family Therapy
 - **value system of therapist has crucial influence on formulation and definition of problems**
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Gender-Sensitive Couples and Family Therapy

- Challenging traditional gender roles
 - Gender roles and stereotypes
 - Feminist perspective on family therapy:
 - **placing same demands for change on both women and men**
 - **valuing women's request for change**
 - **challenging traditional roles**
 - **valuing expression of emotion and nurturance in both partners**
 - **challenging patterns of male dominance and female subordination**
 - **questioning gender-specific rules**
 - **valuing women's work in the family**
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Confidentiality in Couples and Family Therapy

- Exceptions to confidentiality:
 - when mandated by law
 - when it is necessary to protect clients from harm to self or others
 - when family therapist is a defendant in a civil, criminal, or disciplinary action arising from therapy
 - when a waiver has been previously obtained in writing
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Informed Consent in Couples and Family Therapy

- Before therapy begins, the counselor needs to give information to family members about:
 - **purpose of therapy**
 - **typical procedures**
 - **risks of negative outcomes**
 - **possible benefits of therapy**
 - **the fee structure**
 - **limits of confidentiality**
 - **rights and responsibilities of clients**
 - **the option that a family member can withdraw at any time**
 - **what can be expected from the therapist**