

# MISSOURI RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALIST (MRSS)

## Code of Ethics

November 2016

1. A MRSS respects the dignity and worth of all people.
2. A MRSS will value diversity and not practice, condone, facilitate or collaborate in any form of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, mental or physical disability, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition or state.
3. A MRSS will be guided by the principle of client self-determination while also considering the needs of others and society. The primary responsibility of a MRSS is to help individuals they serve achieve their goals, based upon their needs and wants.
4. A MRSS will respect the privacy and confidentiality of private information shared by people utilizing recovery support services or other related professional services at the organization. Unless necessary for supervision, required by law, or otherwise consented to by the individual personally, no confidential information will be revealed to anyone.
5. A MRSS will advocate for the full integration of individuals into their chosen community living environment.
6. A MRSS will not engage in romantic or sexual intimacies with the people utilizing recovery support services in the organization where the MRSS is working. A MRSS will not engage in romantic or sexual intimacies with an individual the MRSS has provided recovery support services to for a period of 2 years after the recovery support relationship has been terminated. A MRSS does not provide recovery support services to anyone with whom they've had romantic or sexual intimacies in the past.
7. A MRSS will not use relationships with people utilizing recovery support services for financial gain or put the person at risk of exploitation or harm.
8. A MRSS will work to keep their environment safe for others.
9. A MRSS never intimidates, threatens, harasses, uses undue influence, physical force or verbal abuse, or makes unwarranted promises of benefits to the people that utilize recovery support services.

10. A MRSS will strive to understand variables that impact relationships with those utilizing recovery support services and to be trauma-informed.
11. A MRSS will not use illegal substances under any circumstance. In addition, a MRSS will not use a prescribed medication in a non-prescribed way and will only use over the counter medication for its intended use.
12. A MRSS will keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery.
13. A MRSS will maintain high standards of personal conduct, modeling accountable relationships and fostering wellness and self-care.
14. A MRSS will acknowledge their limits to knowledge when discussing areas outside the expertise of the field of wellness, such as prescribing medications or making diagnoses.
15. A MRSS should speak in simple terms, use people first language, and avoid clinical jargon or stigmatizing language. A MRSS will strive to help individuals understand substance use disorder and recovery language.
16. A MRSS will strive to avoid dual relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of those they serve. When a dual relationship or conflict can't be avoided, the MRSS informs a supervisor of the relationship or conflict and strives to ensure the person is not exploited in any way.
17. A MRSS will not accept gifts of significant value from those they serve. A MRSS does not loan, give or receive money or payment for any services to or from individuals they serve.
18. A MRSS will never use derogatory language in their communications, whether written or verbal, to or about individuals they serve and avoid negative criticism of colleagues in communicating with individuals they serve and other professionals.
19. A CRPR shall report any felony or misdemeanor conviction to the Missouri Credentialing Board within 30 days of the date of conviction.