

# BATTERER INTERVENTION PROFESSIONAL (BIP)

## Code of Ethics

January 2022

### Introduction

This document is the foundation for standards which will enable the credentialed professional to measure the propriety of his or her conduct in dealing with clients, other professionals and other members of the community. All professionals credentialed by MCB are expected to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the Code of Ethical Practice and Professional Conduct. The Board is committed to investigate and sanction those who fail to abide by its standards.

**Note: All of the principles and ethical standards have been identified with a dual range of seriousness (except for a few that have only one option available). The intention of this guide is to assist the investigators and the Ethics Committee in applying an 'indication' of seriousness to the hearing panels so that a more standardized method of sanction can be used when applied. All agree that there may be "extenuating circumstances" that differentiate seriousness for violations, i.e., some violations may be a result of oversight or carelessness, when others are clearly intentional and without remorse. With any "SUBSTANTIATED VIOLATION", it is now an expectation that there will be an attached level of seriousness being suggested by the Investigators and the Committee. Those levels are;**

**S = Serious**

**VS = Very Serious**

**ES = Extremely Serious**

1. **(S/VS)** A BIP will inform all program attendees of their rights and responsibilities. A BIP will inform all program attendees of records created during the facilitation process, how those records will be used and how those records can be accessed.
2. **(S/VS)** A BIP respects the dignity and worth of all people.
3. **(S/VS)** A BIP 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.
4. **(S/VS/ES)** A BIP will respect the privacy and confidentiality of private information shared by program attendees. Unless necessary for supervision, required by law, or otherwise consented to by the individual personally, no confidential information will be revealed to anyone.
5. **(ES)** A BIP will not engage in romantic or sexual intimacies with program attendees in the organization where the BIP is working. A BIP will not

engage in romantic or sexual intimacies with an individual the BIP has provided Batterer Intervention services to for a period of 5 years after the program service relationship has been terminated. A BIP does not provide services to anyone with whom they've had romantic or sexual intimacies in the past.

6. **(VS/ES)** A BIP will not use relationships with people utilizing their program services for financial gain or put the person at risk of exploitation or harm.
7. **(VS/ES)** A BIP will not practice or provide services that are outside their area of knowledge without the proper training and credentialing or licensure as required.
8. **(VS/ES)** A BIP shall report any felony or misdemeanor conviction to the Missouri Credentialing Board within 30 days of the date of conviction.
9. **(S/VS)** A BIP will work to keep their environment safe for others.
10. **(VS/ES)** A BIP never intimidates, threatens, harasses, uses undue influence, physical force or verbal abuse, or makes unwarranted promises of benefits to the people that utilize their program services.
11. **(VS/ES)** A BIP will not use illegal substances under any circumstance. In addition, a BIP will not use a prescribed medication in a non-prescribed way and will only use over the counter medication for its intended use.
12. **(S)** A BIP will keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to Batterer Intervention Best Practices.
13. **(VS/ES)** A BIP will maintain high standards of personal conduct, modeling accountable relationships and fostering wellness and self-care.
14. **(ES)** A BIP 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 BIP informs a supervisor or referral source of the relationship or conflict and strives to ensure the person is not exploited in any way.
15. **(S/VS/ES)** A BIP will not accept gifts of significant value from those they serve. A BIP does not loan money to someone receiving services and does not accept money from someone receiving services except for normal program services fees.

16. **(VS/ES)** A BIP 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.
  
17. **(VS/ES)** A BIP will cooperate with the Missouri Credentialing Board regarding any ethics investigation.
  
18. **(VS/ES)** A BIP will report to the MCB any violation of an MCB Code of Ethical Practice and Professional Conduct whether this violation was a self-violation or a violation by another credentialed professional.

| Serious  | Very Serious  | Extremely Serious  |
|--|---|--|
| Additional Education:<br>Ethics, Counseling<br>Techniques, specific<br>drugs, other trainings<br>Increased Supervision<br>Reprimand<br>Denial of Credential or<br>Application<br>Reading/Written Reports | Suspension of Credential<br>Suspension of Application<br>Additional Education:<br>Ethics, Counseling<br>Techniques, specific<br>drugs, other trainings<br>Referral for MH assessment<br>Referral for Substance Use<br>Disorder Assessment<br>Denial of Credential/<br>Application<br>Web Posting<br>Agency Notification | Revocation for ____ time<br>Suspension for ____ time<br>Denial of future Credential/<br>Application<br>Agency notification<br>Web Posting<br>Requires permission before<br>applying for credential |