

MISSOURI RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALIST (MRSS)/CERTIFIED RECIPROCAL PEER RECOVERY (CRPR)

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 MRSS/CRPR respects the dignity and worth of all people.
2. **(S/VS)** A MRSS/CRPR 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. **(S)** A MRSS/CRPR will be guided by the principle of client self-determination while also considering the needs of others and society. The primary responsibility is to help individuals they serve achieve their goals, based upon their needs and wants.
4. **(S/VS/ES)** A MRSS/CRPR 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. **(S/VS)** A MRSS/CRPR will advocate for the full integration of individuals into their chosen community living environment.
6. **(ES)** A MRSS/CRPR will not engage in romantic or sexual intimacies with the people utilizing recovery support services in the organization where he/she is working. A MRSS/CRPR will not engage in romantic or sexual intimacies with an individual the MRSS/CRPR has provided services to for a period of 5 years after the relationship has been terminated. A MRSS/CRPR does not provide recovery support services to anyone with whom they've had romantic or sexual intimacies in the past.
7. **(VS/ES)** A MRSS/CRPR will not use relationships with people utilizing recovery support services for financial gain or put the person at risk of exploitation or harm.
8. **(S/VS)** A MRSS/CRPR will work to keep their environment safe for others.
9. **(VS/ES)** A MRSS/CRPR 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. **(S/VS)** A MRSS/CRPR will strive to understand variables that impact relationships with those utilizing recovery support services and to be trauma-informed.
11. **(VS/ES)** A MRSS/CRPR will not use illegal substances under any circumstance. In addition, a MRSS/CRPR 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 MRSS/CRPR will keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery.
13. **(VS/ES)** A MRSS/CRPR will maintain high standards of personal conduct, modeling accountable relationships, and fostering wellness and self-care.
14. **(VS/ES)** A MRSS/CRPR 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. **(S)** A MRSS/CRPR should speak in simple terms, use people first language, and avoid clinical jargon or stigmatizing language. A MRSS/CRPR will

strive to help individuals understand substance use disorder and recovery language.

16. **(ES)** A MRSS/CRPR 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/CRPR informs a supervisor of the relationship or conflict and strives to ensure the person is not exploited in any way.
17. **(S/VS/ES)** A MRSS/CRPR will not accept gifts of significant value from those they serve. A MRSS/CRPR does not loan, give or receive money or payment for any services to or from individuals they serve.
18. **(VS/ES)** A MRSS/CRPR 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. **(VS/ES)** A MRSS/CRPR shall report any felony or misdemeanor conviction to the Missouri Credentialing Board within 30 days of the date of conviction.
20. **(VS/ES)** A MRSS/CRPR 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 |
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| Additional Education: Ethics, Counseling Techniques, specific drugs, other trainings Increased Supervision Reprimand Denial of Credential or Application Reading/Written Reports | Suspension of Credential Suspension of Application Additional Education: Ethics, Counseling Techniques, specific drugs, other trainings Referral for MH assessment Referral for Substance Use Disorder Assessment Denial of Credential/ Application Web Posting Agency Notification | Revocation for ____ time Suspension for ____ time Denial of future Credential/ Application Agency notification Web Posting Requires permission before applying for credential |