

WESTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT CLIENT HANDOUT

Counselors are subject to discipline by the Washington State Department of Licensing. Cause for disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct is found in RCW 18.130.180 and includes the following:

1. False, fraudulent or misleading advertising.
2. The commission of any act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption relating to the practice of counseling.
3. Incompetence, negligence, or malpractice resulting in injury or unreasonable risk or harm to the client.
4. Continuing to practice when a certification or registration has been suspended, revoked or restricted by the Director of the Department of Licensing.
5. The Possession, use, prescription for use or distribution of controlled substances or legend drugs in any way except for legitimate therapeutic purposes.
6. Violation of any federal or state law or rules and rules of any health agency.
7. Aiding or abetting unregistered or uncertified person to engage in the practice of counseling, unless exempt by law.
8. Misrepresentation or fraud in any aspect of counseling.
9. Counseling involving contact with the public while suffering from a contagious or infectious disease involving serious risk to the public health.
10. Promotion for personal gain of any unnecessary or useless drug, device, treatment procedure or service.
11. Conviction of any gross misdemeanor or felony relating to the practice of counseling.
12. The procuring, aiding or abetting in procuring a criminal abortion.
13. The offering or undertaking or agreeing to cure by secret manhood, procedure or treatment.
14. The willful betrayal of a counselor-client privilege as recognized by law.
15. Violation of the rebating laws which includes payment for referral of clients.
16. The use of threats or harassment against clients or witnesses to prevent them from providing evidence in a disciplinary proceeding or legal action.
17. Drunkenness or habitual intemperance in the use of alcohol or addiction to alcohol or drugs.
18. Abuse of a client or sexual contact with a client.