



IPGGC Code of Professional Conduct for Clinical Professionals Specializing in Gambling and Gaming Disorder

This Code of Professional Conduct outlines the standards of behavior expected of IPGGC certified professionals in their interactions with clients, colleagues, and the broader community. It complements the IPGGC Code of Ethics and provides further guidance on maintaining professionalism in all aspects of professional practice.

I. Conduct in the Therapeutic Relationship:

- **Respect and Dignity:** Treat all clients with respect and dignity, regardless of their background, presentation, beliefs, or the nature of their gambling or gaming involvement.
- **Professional Boundaries:** Maintain appropriate professional boundaries with clients at all times. Avoid dual relationships, conflicts of interest, and any behavior that could be perceived as exploitative or harmful.
- **Confidentiality:** Uphold the highest standards of confidentiality in accordance with the IPGGC Code of Ethics and all applicable laws and regulations.
- **Informed Consent:** Obtain informed consent from clients before initiating any assessment or treatment. Ensure clients understand the nature and purpose of services, potential risks and benefits, and alternative options.
- **Competence:** Provide services only within the scope of one's professional competence. Seek consultation or supervision when necessary and refer clients to other professionals when appropriate.
- **Termination and Referral:** Provide appropriate termination procedures and referral options when necessary, ensuring a smooth transition for the client.

II. Conduct with Colleagues and Peers:

- **Collaboration and Respect:** Foster a collaborative and respectful working relationship with colleagues and peers. Communicate effectively, share knowledge, and support each other's professional development.
- **Professional Boundaries:** Maintain appropriate professional boundaries with colleagues and avoid any behavior that could be perceived as harassment, discrimination, or exploitation.

- **Conflict Resolution:** Address any conflicts or disagreements with colleagues in a professional and constructive manner. Seek mediation or other forms of conflict resolution when necessary.
- **Professional Courtesy:** Extend professional courtesy to colleagues, including respecting their time, expertise, and opinions.

III. Conduct in the Community and Public Sphere:

- **Professional Representation:** Represent the IPGGC and the profession of gambling and gaming disorder counseling in a positive and professional manner.
- **Community Engagement:** Engage with the community to promote awareness and understanding of gambling and gaming disorder. Participate in educational events, workshops, and public forums.
- **Social Media:** Use social media responsibly and professionally. Avoid online conduct that could damage one's professional reputation or the reputation of the IPGGC.
- **Media Relations:** When interacting with the media, provide accurate and responsible information about gambling and gaming disorder. Respect client confidentiality and avoid sensationalizing the issue.
- **Advocacy:** Advocate for policies and resources that support prevention, treatment, and recovery from gambling and gaming disorder.

IV. Conduct in Professional Settings:

- **Conferences and Trainings:** Maintain a professional demeanor at conferences, trainings, and other professional events. Engage in respectful dialogue and avoid disruptive behavior.
- **Presentations and Publications:** Ensure that presentations and publications are accurate, evidence-based, and free from plagiarism. Properly cite sources and give credit to others' contributions.
- **Professional Development:** Actively participate in continuing education activities to maintain IPGGC certification and enhance professional growth.

V. Personal Conduct:

- **Integrity and Honesty:** Maintain high standards of personal and professional integrity. Act with honesty and transparency in all interactions.
- **Responsibility:** Take responsibility for one's actions and decisions. Acknowledge mistakes and take steps to rectify them.
- **Self-Care:** Prioritize personal well-being and engage in self-care practices to prevent burnout and maintain professional effectiveness.
- **Professional Appearance:** Maintain a professional appearance and demeanor in all professional settings.

VI. Adherence to the Code:

- **Compliance:** All IPGGC certified professionals are expected to adhere to this Code of Professional Conduct.

- **Reporting Concerns:** Any concerns about a colleague's conduct should be reported to the IPGGC for review and appropriate action.
- **Disciplinary Action:** Violations of this Code may result in disciplinary action by the IPGGC, up to and including revocation of certification.

This Code of Professional Conduct provides guidance for IPGGC certified professionals to maintain the highest standards of professionalism in all aspects of their work. By adhering to these principles, professionals demonstrate their commitment to ethical practice, client welfare, and the integrity of the profession.