# **Outline**

#### **Understand the Legal System**

Statutes Rules and regulations Case law Finding the law

daw
fre collity

6.25
CE Hours of Ethics

#### **Legal Exposure**

Criminal liability
Civil liability
Licensing complaints
Organization complaints

# Establish the Treatment Relationship

The professional relationship
The legal and ethical principle of
informed consent
Informed consent as part of the
treatment modality
Use of and reliance upon written
consent forms

#### **Record-Keeping Practices**

Record-keeping regulations
Items which constitute the record, persona notes vs. charting, raw data, computer printouts and third-party records
Access to records by written requests, subpoenas and court orders

#### The Ethics of Duty to Warn

Duty to warn potential third-party victims Review of specific Virginia case law governing danger to others A clinical approach to the duty to protect

#### Treatment of Minors

Age of majority
Consent to treatment and access to records
Clinical implications in the
treatment of the older adolescent
Treatment of minors in situations of
family separation and divorce

#### **Non-Sexual Boundary Violations**

Email correspondence and cell phone contacts
Treatment vs. advocacy for patients
Professional contacts with attorneys and the legal profession
In-court expert testimony

#### **Live Seminar Schedule**

8:00 Registration/Morning Coffee & Tea8:30 Program begins11:50-1:00 Lunch (on your own)4:30 Program ends

There will be two 15-min breaks (mid-morning & mid-afternoon).

Actual lunch and break start times are at the discretion of the speake
A more detailed schedule is available upon request.

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# Objectives

- 1. Determine specific state and administrative laws that are pertinent to establishing and maintaining an ethical clinical practice.
- 2. Develop policies on ethical issues such as restraints, seclusion and informed consent.
- 3. Determine which notes, documents, reports, forms, and clinical data constitute an official medical record in the state of Virginia.
- 4. Evaluate your current record-keeping practices in order to ensure compliance with ethical and legal requirements in the state of Virginia.
- 5. Designate the treatment provider's responsibilities relating to mental health issues and duty to warn law in Virginia.
- 6. Explore the legal and ethical considerations for the treatment of minor populations in Virginia with regard to age of consent, confidentiality and custody concerns.

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# Ethical Principles in the Practice of Virginia

Mental Health Professionals

Featuring Allan M. Tepper, Attorney and Psychologist

## **2019 UPDATES**



**ROANOKE, VA** February 20, 2019

RICHMOND, VA February 21, 2019

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# Ethical Principles in the Practice of Virginia

# Mental Health Professionals

Featuring Allan M. Tepper, Attorney and Psychologist

- Make ethics meaningful, practical & helpful
- Apply ethics to everyday practice
- What every Virginia mental health professional needs to know!



**2019 UPDATES** 

"This was probably the most rewarding day-long seminar I have ever attended; the supplemental readings were most appreciated."



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# Ethical Principles in the Practice of Virginia

## Mental Health Professionals

Many continuing education ethics programs are generic in nature. Many continuing education ethics programs stress risk management strategies to the detriment of the attendees, especially if an attorney presenter is involved.

"This was an extremely relevant program provided by a very knowledgeable presenter who provided very clear and thorough explanations. The fact that the presentation was state-specific was its most valuable aspect."

This program is different. Rather than avoiding clinical issues, this program explores the manner by which clinical and ethical issues effect the everyday practice of the mental health professional in Virginia. This unique blend of clinical and ethical concerns allows for a more meaningful understanding and interpretation of the rules that govern mental health practice.

These goals are reached through the experience and the interactive style of the presenter, Allan M. Tepper, J.D., Psy.D. Different from other individuals who possess joint degrees in

psychology and law, Dr. Tepper actually maintains an active psychology practice and an active law practice. He functions as a clinician, and he represents mental health professionals who experience legal difficulties. In this regard, Dr. Tepper brings an extremely unique perspective to the practical understanding of ethics.

These goals also are reached through the manual utilized in the seminar. The manual materials are not generic in nature. All of the written materials are state specific to Virginia.

When interacting with an attorney, it sometimes is difficult to hear the words, "Trust me." For this seminar, however, we do say, "Trust us!!" We guarantee, you won't walk away disappointed.

# Speaker

Allan M. Tepper, J.D., Psy.D., is engaged in the private practice of both law and psychology in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As a psychologist, he specializes in forensic matters and has testified on numerous occasions in cases involving civil, criminal, domestic relations, and death penalty issues. As an attorney, he has extensive trial experience, including the representation of mental health professionals in ethics and licensing board proceedings. He has been an adjunct faculty member at Widener University in the Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology, and at the Philadelphia Chapter of Great Lakes Colleges Association, and an adjunct assistant professor at Immaculate College, Graduate School. Dr. Tepper conducts ethical training for mental health professionals throughout the United States and is well-known for his engaging style. He publishes frequently in the areas of law and psychology. He is co-author of Pennsylvania Law and Psychology - Third Edition, and Pennsylvania Law, Ethics, and Psychology -Fourth Edition. He received his J.D. degree from Albany Law School and received M.S. and Psy.D. degrees in clinical psychology from Hahnemann University in Pennsylvania. Visit his website at www.allanmtepper.com.

Speaker Disclosure:

Financial: Allan Tepper is in private practice. He receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc. Non-financial: Allan Tepper has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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