### Outline

### **Clinician-Client Relationship**

Law vs. ethics Elements of legal informed consent

Nuts and bolts of office policies Records vs. psychotherapy notes What to put in a record

Limitations on confidentiality

Washington case law & danger to others Washington duty to warn potential victims

The latest updates you need to know

### **Practical Approach to Risk Management**

Elements of consent Competence & scope of practice Boundary violations/crossings Issues with modern technology Texting, cell phones, e-mail, video psychotherapy Perils of supervision

### Litigation

Licensing complaints & malpractice lawsuits Washington-specific statutes Washington rules and regulations Case law and how to find it

### **Navigate the Legal System**

Roles of attorneys Confidentiality/privilege Subpoena & disclosure of confidential information

Washington age of majority Consent to treatment Privilege/confidentiality Separation & divorce

**Case Studies** 

### **Live Seminar & Webcast Schedule**

(Times listed in Pacific)

7:30 Registration/Morning Coffee & Tea

**8:00** Program begins

**11:50-1:00** Lunch (on your own)

**4:00** 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 speaker A more detailed schedule is available upon request.

## **Objectives**

- 1. Describe how to avoid litigation dilemmas, licensing complaints and malpractice actions.
- 2. Analyze the legal and ethical considerations for the treatment of minor populations in Washington with regard to age of consent, confidentiality and custody concerns.
- 3. Explain how an understanding of common boundary and dual relationship issues/dilemmas can help you maintain appropriate relationships with your clients.
- 4. Identify the ethical challenges you should consider when responding to subpoenas that request disclosure of client records.
- 5. Discuss the limits of confidentiality as it relates to duty to warn law in Washington.
- 6. Demonstrate how risk management strategies regarding technology can keep client information secure and avoid violating HIPAA.

### **Hassle-Free Cancellation Policy:**

If you contact us before the event date, you can exchange for a DVD or CD/digital manual package on the subject (self-study continuing education credit may be available), a certificate to attend another seminar, or receive a tuition refund less a \$30 cancel fee. Substitutions are permitted at any time.



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# Washington

**Legal and Ethical Issues** for Mental Health **Clinicians** 



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# Washington

## **Legal and Ethical Issues** for Mental Health Clinicians

featuring Susan J. Lewis **Psychologist and Attorney** 

- · Minimize litigation dilemmas, complaints and malpractice actions
- The latest updates on HIPAA and Washington laws and regulations
- · What every Washington mental health professional needs to know!



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## Washington

### **Legal and Ethical Issues for Mental Health Clinicians**

This program focuses on ethical, legal, statutory or regulatory policies, guidelines and standards that impact psychological practice and explores the manner by which clinical and ethical issues affect the everyday practice of the mental health professional in Washington. This unique blend of clinical and ethical concerns allows for a more meaningful understanding and interpretation of the rules that govern mental health practice and allows the attendee to identify specific state laws that affect and govern their practice. Through lecture, a review of references including the APA "Ethics Code" and the seminar manual with state specific policies and regulations; Dr. Lewis will prepare you for litigation issues which can put your client, your license and your practice at risk. You will learn how to structure your practice to limit exposure of risk, as well as discover record keeping practices that may help protect you in the event of a complaint. Susan will provide you with the following take-home tools to minimize risk:

- Updates on HIPAA and Washington laws and regulations
- Risk management strategies
- · How to minimize litigation dilemmas, complaints and malpractice actions
- Best practices in the professional relationship, informed consent and office policies

You will learn through problem solving discussions that are representative of actual ethical decisions you encounter in your clinical practice. The blending of Susan's experience as a lawyer, work within the court system and extensive clinical experience makes her a hands-on, knowledgeable instructor!

This seminar will help prepare you for when and if you are faced with litigation.

### Live Webcast Details and Live Webcast Continuing Education Credit Information

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## Speaker

Susan J. Lewis, Ph.D., J.D., is a licensed clinical and forensic psychologist and lawyer. She has over 25 years of experience in clinical practice with unique populations that have included female sexual offenders incarcerated at a woman's prison, self-injurious individuals, forensic patients and individuals who suffer from severe and persistent mental illness. In addition to clinical practice, Dr. Lewis has served in leadership roles as clinical director, program manager, and supervisor for psychiatry residents and post-doctoral psychologists.

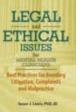
Currently, Dr. Lewis teaches courses on Law and Ethics in Mental Health that are state specific to the laws of each state. She has also lectured nationwide on the DSM-5° and differential diagnosis. She taught courses at Harvard's Extension School and Northeastern University on The Psychology of Criminal Behavior. She is the author of Leaal and Ethical Issues for Mental Health Clinicians: Best Practices for Avoiding Litigation, Complaints and Malpractice (PPM, 2016) and her latest book From Deep Within: A Forensic and Clinical Psychologist's Journey (2018).

A sought after consultant, Dr. Lewis works with attorneys on controversial issues such as dangerousness, competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility evaluations, and civil and criminal commitment. She works with attorneys on strategies of how mental illness might impinge on legal decision-making. Dr. Lewis has been adjudicated an expert in almost all of the district and superior courts in Massachusetts.

Speaker Disclosures:

Financial: Susan Lewis is in private practice. She receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc. Non-financial: Susan Lewis is a member of the American Psychological Association.

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### Legal and Ethical Issues for Mental Health Clinicians

Best Practices for Avoiding Litigation, Complaints and Malpractice

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This go-to resources goes beyond the what and why, focusing on how to protect you and your clients in an increasingly litigious society. Presented in easy-to-understand language to step you through the legalese, highlighted by 30 engaging case examples to illustrate how you can overcome legal and ethical challenges that arise in your practice. Topics include risk management, contracts, HIPAA, privileged communication, licensing complaints, supervision pitfalls, rights of minors and technology.



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Washington Counselors: This activity has been submitted to the Washington Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Clinical Social Workers Board. Approval

Marriage & Family Therapists: This activity consists of 380 minutes of continuing education instruction. Credit requirements and approvals vary per state board regulations. You should save this course outline, the certificate of completion you receive from the activity and contact your state board or organization to determine specific filing requirements.

Washington Marriage & Family Therapists: This activity has been submitted to the Washington Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Clinical Social Workers Board. Approval pending

Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Clinical Nurse Specialists: PESI, Inc. is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

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Washington Social Workers: This activity has been submitted to the Washington Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Clinical Social Workers Board, Approval

Other Professions: This activity qualifies for 380 minutes of instructional content as required by many national, state and local licensing boards and professional organizations. Save your course outline and certificate of completion, and contact your own board or organization for specific



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