## Outline

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

Statutes **Rules and regulations** Case law Finding the law

#### 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 Delaware 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 & Tea 8:30 Program begins **11:50-1:00** Lunch (on your own) 4:30 Program ends

nere will be two 15-min breaks (mid-morning & mid-afternoon). ctual lunch and break start times are at the discretion of the speake more detailed schedule is available upon request.

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## Objectives

- 1. Specify state and administrative laws that impact clinical practice.
- 2. Determine the ethical and legal principle of informed consent.
- 3. Determine the notes, documents, reports, forms, and clinical data that constitute the record.
- 4. Evaluate record-keeping practices.
- 5. Analyze how to comply with third-party requests for records.
- 6. Establish the consent necessary to treat minors and release records of minors.

Target Audience: Counselors • Social Workers • Psychologists • Case Managers • Addiction Counselors Therapists • Marriage & Family Therapists • Other Mental Health Professionals • Nurses





Tuesday, January 14, 2020

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**Ethical Principles in the Practice of** Delaware

**Mental Health Professionals** 

#### Featuring Allan M. Tepper, Attorney and Psychologist



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## Ethical Principles in the Practice of Delaware 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.

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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 Delaware. 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 Delaware.

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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