

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
 - California case law & danger to others
 - California duty to warn potential victims HIPAA
 - 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
 - California-specific statutes
 - California rules and regulations
 - Case law and how to find it

Navigate the Legal System

- Roles of attorneys
- Confidentiality/privilege
- Subpoena & disclosure of confidential information
- Depositions, interrogatories, expert testimony

Treatment of Minors

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

Case Studies

Live Webinar Schedule
(Times listed in Pacific)

8:00 Program begins

11:50-1:00 Lunch Break

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 California 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 California.

6. Demonstrate how risk management strategies regarding technology can keep client information secure and avoid violating HIPAA.

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California

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 California. 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 California 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!

Target Audience:

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

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Meet Your 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 *Legal 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 Disclosure:

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.

CE CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR LIVE WEBINAR

National CE Credit Approvals For Live Webinar
Credits listed are for full attendance at the live webcast only. The CE certificate can be downloaded/printed after completing the webcast and passing the online post-test evaluation (80% passing score). Please see schedule for full attendance start and end times. NOTE: Boards do not allow credit for breaks or lunch.

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Counselors: This intermediate activity consists of 6.25 clock hours of continuing education instruction. Credit requirements and approvals vary per state board regulations. Please save the course outline, the certificate of completion you receive from the activity and contact your state board or organization to determine specific filing requirements.

California Counselors: The California Board of Behavioral Sciences accepts CE programs that are approved by other approval agencies, including several that approve PESI and its programs. A full list of approval agencies accepted by the BBS can be found at www.bbs.ca.gov/licensees/cont_ed.html under “Where to find CE Courses.” This Intermediate level activity consists of 6.0 clock hours of continuing education instruction.

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.

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Psychologists: PESI, Inc. is approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. PESI maintains responsibility for this program and its content. PESI is offering this activity for 6.25 hours of continuing education credit. Full attendance is required; no partial credits will be offered for partial attendance. Course Level: Intermediate.

Social Workers: PESI, Inc., #1062, is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. PESI, Inc. maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: January 27, 2020 - January 27, 2023. Social Workers completing this course receive 6.25 Ethics continuing education credits. Course Level: Intermediate. Full attendance is required; no partial credits will be offered for partial attendance. A certificate of attendance will be awarded at the end of the program to social workers who complete the program evaluation.

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 requirements.

Self-study credit: To check availability for your profession, go to www.pesi.com or call 800-844-8260 with your licensing board to verify acceptance of self-study credit for license renewal.

*Content and materials in this course may include interventions and modalities that are beyond the authorized practice of your profession. As a licensed professional, you are responsible for reviewing the scope of practice, including activities that are defined in law as beyond the boundaries of practice in accordance with and in compliance with your profession’s standards.

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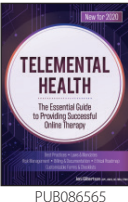
- Self-study CE certificate available

CE hours, approvals and cost of CE Certificates may vary from live event. Visit www.pesi.com or call 800-844-8260 to check for availability and pricing

Recommended Reading:



Legal and Ethical Issues for Mental Health Clinicians
Best Practices for Avoiding Litigation, Complaints and Malpractice
Susan J. Lewis, Ph.D., J.D.
~~\$19.99~~ **\$14.99***



Telemental Health
The Essential Guide to Providing Successful Online Therapy
Joni Gilbertson, MA, NCC, LCPC, LMHC, BC-TMH, CTMH
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*If mailing/faxing registration, find form at www.pesi.com/form or call 800-844-8260

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QUESTIONS

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