

Outline

Emotional Support Animal (ESA) vs. Service Animal (SA)
Differences regarding landlords, airlines, owners and animals
Typical reasons for requests
Therapeutic role and issuing a diagnosis
Ethical and legal issues to be aware of from a clinician's viewpoint
Stance of ADA, ACA, APA regarding use of these animals
Review of an ESA letter
New transportation/airline laws regarding ESAs
Research, risks and treatment limitations

Live Webinar Schedule

(Times listed in Central)

1:00 Program begins

4:15 Program ends

There will be one 15-min break in the mid-afternoon.
Actual break start times are at the discretion of the speaker.
A more detailed schedule is available upon request.

Objectives

1. Investigate potential ethical and legal conflicts that exist when a mental health professional is certifying the need for an Emotional Support Animal.
2. Use emerging best practices and guidelines for assessing and documenting ESA need for clients.
3. Analyze key elements of an ESA letter in order to properly formulate one if needed.

Target Audience:

Counselors • Social Workers • Psychologists • Addictions Counselors
Marriage & Family Therapists • Physicians • Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners



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Emotional Support Animals

Ethical, Legal and Practical Issues to
Consider Before Providing an ESA Letter

Live Interactive Webinar

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

BONUS! – Registration includes FREE on-demand access for 3 months.



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Emotional Support Animals

Ethical, Legal and Practical Issues to
Consider Before Providing an ESA Letter

- Know when to write an ESA letter...and when not to
- Protect your practice with proper assessments
- ESA letter writing tips and sample review

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Emotional Support Animals

Ethical, Legal and Practical Issues to Consider Before Providing an ESA Letter

Do you feel uncomfortable and unsure how to respond when clients ask you to write a letter certifying their pet as an Emotional Support Animal (ESA)?

Do you worry that some clients are simply looking to bring their pets into situations where they wouldn't normally be allowed? Or fear it's not even within your scope of practice to determine whether an animal has a therapeutic effect on your clients?

Requests for ESA letters are surging, but guidelines, protocols and available education for therapists isn't keeping up. How can you ensure that you're considering the right legal, ethical and practical issues before writing one?

Diana Sebzda, LPC has been a licensed counselor for over 16 years and spent 15 years as a veterinary technician. Using her unique insight as both a mental health and animal care professional, she's guided many individuals through the use of service animals and emotional support animals.

Join her for this timely **3-hour webinar training** and get the latest details and guidance you need so you can:

- Fully understand the therapeutic role in assessing and issuing a diagnosis
- Identify clinical issues related to ESAs you may have missed
- Know when you shouldn't issue an ESA
- Get up to speed on new transportation/airline laws regarding ESAs
- Recognize key components of legal and ethical ESA letter by reviewing samples

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Meet Your Speaker

Diana Sebzda, LPC, is a licensed professional counselor in the state of New Jersey and director of the Joseph T. Quinlan Bereavement Center and the Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice.

In addition to being a counselor Diana was a veterinary technician for 15 years giving her unique insight as both a counselor and as an animal care professional. Her work has been published in *Healthy Pet Magazine* and she has been a featured speaker and author on the human animal bond, pet therapy, pet assisted therapy and emotional support animals.

In over 16 years of counseling work, Diana has guided many individuals through the process of pet therapy, and the use of service animals and emotional support animals.

Speaker Disclosure:

Financial: Diana Sebzda is the director of bereavement at the Joseph T. Quinlan Bereavement Center. She receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc.

Non-financial: Diana Sebzda is a Fellow in Thanatology with the Association for Death Education and Counseling. She is a member of the Traumatic Loss Coalition of New Jersey; the American Counseling Association; and the Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement.

CE CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR LIVE WEBINAR

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For specific credit approvals and details, visit www.pesi.com/webcast/85355

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