

# **Philippines**

## **PROFESSIONAL MISSION**

A Clinical Psychologist is committed to the value of preserving the dignity and welfare of every individual. To realize this end, he continuously seeks means such as using his skills and position to provide his fellow men better ways of understanding themselves and others. While aware of his rights to seek and discover the many facets of human behavior, he also willingly accepts the responsibility inherent therein – to assist individuals become more effective and productive members of society.

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## **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

## I. RESPONSIBILITY

Paramount in the practice of the Clinical Psychologist is his commitment to integrity.

- As a scientist, he believes in objectivity, whether this be in the planning of his research and their interpretation, or in the publishing of his findings.
- As a teacher, he is aware of the extent of his influence, thus demanding of himself the highest scholastic standards in imparting knowledge and in teaching skills.
- As a practitioner, aware of the value of self-integration, he seeks a continued improvement of his personal and professional competence to preserve his effectiveness and credibility.
- As an employee of an institution or an agency, he has the responsibility to desist from altering or modifying and distorting psychological findings or impeding their proper use in spite of external or institutional pressures.

### Specific Principles:

#### A. *Moral and Legal Standards*

The Clinical Psychologist in the practice of his profession, shows reasonable regard for the social, moral and legal standards of the community and the society wherein he works. As such:

1. He abides by pertinent governmental regulations as well as those of organizations established to safeguard the welfare of human and animal subjects.
2. He realizes his roles as a facilitator of change, while aware of the varied backgrounds of others. As such, he does not impose his set of values on them and treats materials objectively.
3. He avoids any action that might transgress the legal and Civil rights of clients or of others who may be affected by his conduct.

#### B. *Confidentiality*

By the very nature of his work, which touches the inner lives of his subjects, students and clients, the Clinical Psychologist is duty-bound to withhold information about any individual. If any information is to be released, this may be granted under certain safeguards:

1. He informs the client of the limitations of confidentiality. Hence in cases where a team of professionals is involved or a second opinion is being sought, certain data may be divulged with the knowledge and consent of the client.

2. Results of clinical and counseling relationships which need to be discussed with colleagues for evaluation purposes shall concern materials that will not constitute undue invasion of privacy.
3. He releases information to appropriate individuals/authorities only after careful deliberation or when there is imminent danger to the individual and the community. In court cases, data should be limited only to those pertinent to the legitimate request of the court.
4. Materials he uses of purposes of classroom discussions are avoided of only then, the identity of the person that is adequately disguised and preferably with the client's consent.
5. Test protocols and their interpretations and all other records should be kept secured from unqualified persons.
6. Test results are to be released only to the source of referral and with a written permission from the client if it is a self-referral.
7. Where test results need to be shared with schools, social agencies or industry, only clinical psychologists shall supervise such releases.
8. Test results of clients in a hospital setting become part of hospital records. Releases of such information to the person tested may be obtained only with prior permission from management.

*C. Assessment*

The client is entitled to some information regarding the nature and purpose of the test as well as the test results. It is incumbent upon the Clinical Psychologist to convey these results in a manner that facilitates clear understanding while preserving test security.

1. The Clinical Psychologist should judiciously select and administer only those tests which are pertinent to the reasons of the referral.
2. The released test should contain the purpose for which the tests were initially done.
3. In fairness to the client, under no circumstances should the results be reported without taking into consideration the appropriateness, validity, and reliability of the test. The psychologist's reservations about the interpretations should therefore be indicated.
4. Where test results have to be communicated to relatives, parents or teachers, these shall be explained in non-technical language.

5. The administration and handling of all test materials (manuals, keys, answer sheets, reusable booklets, etc), shall be handled only by qualified users/personnel, etc. Refer to Appendix A for various test levels and corresponding training requirements.
6. It is also incumbent on the psychologist to insure that test results and interpretations are not used by persons other than those explicitly agreed upon by the referral resources.

*D. Client Welfare and Relationship*

The relationship between the Clinical Psychologist and his client represents a unique association and as such the psychologist abides by certain standard among which are the following:

1. To maintain objectivity and to avoid emotional coloring, he abstains from entering into any professional relationship with members of his own family, intimate friends, close associates or other whose welfare might be jeopardized where there exists some personal conflicts.
2. For all clinical and counseling purposes, the sessions are to be conducted in a setting that assures the client of privacy.
3. He assures the client that materials gathered through psychological tests for diagnosis and analysis will be used in a professional manner.
4. In instances where recorded interviews and observations require assistance of other qualified personnel in the profession, this shall be done only upon prior arrangement with the client.
5. He avoids entering into a client-clinician relationship other than for professional purposes (e.g., conducting a dry run of a testing session to satisfy an individual's curiosity, etc).
6. He maintains a professional relationship with the client, avoiding any emotional involvement that would be detrimental to the client's well-being.
7. A therapeutic relationship should be terminated when the clinician is quite sure that he can no longer render help. He recommends alternative courses of action to the client after carefully explaining the reasons necessitating termination.

*E. Competence*

The holding of a high standard of professional competence is an explicit commitment among all Clinical Psychologists in the interest of the public and profession in its totality. Psychologists are aware of the limits of their competence and the restrictions of their techniques. Their actions are always based on the accepted code of professional conduct. Psychologists are knowledgeable and abreast of the scientific and professional information or findings relevant to the services they offer.

1. His decisions concerning individuals or policies are based on a thorough integration of data gathered. This implies that he has an understanding of psychological or educational measurements, validation, problems, other test researches, personality theories and personality dynamics.
2. He acknowledges the necessity for progressive, dynamic education. When necessary, he acquires training, experience or advice to ensure competent service.
3. He makes known in precise statements his competence, education, training, and experience. His claim to his qualifications is supported only with those degrees obtained from duly recognized institutions of higher learning. He also abides by the standards set by the Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP). (Refer to Appendices B and C).
4. Knowing that his effectiveness or fitness depends upon his capacity to carry on satisfactory interpersonal relations, he abstains from getting involved in any activity in which his personal problems may affect his relation with the client. In such instances where he recognizes his personal problems may affect his relation with the client, he is encouraged to seek competent professional assistance to determine whether he should impede, interrupt, or restrict the scope of his professional and/or scientific activities.
5. In the interest of upholding the highest professional services, clinicians should take it upon themselves to identify psychologists who are not qualified to practice. When the psychologist has been found to have transgressed the ethical standards, the attention of the appropriate Committee on Ethical Standards of the PAP shall be called.

## **II. INTERPROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

A Clinical Psychologist maintains good relations with his colleagues and others belonging to other organizations in as much as he is aware that he represents only one field of psychology, which in turn is only one area of study that endeavors to understand man better.

- As a scientist, he appreciates the need of sharing his findings for further scrutiny and thus seeks to establish a relationship that facilitates the free exchange of ideas.
- As a teacher, he perceives his role as a link between students and professionals. To this end, he thus keeps abreast with changes in contemporary thinking and facilitates the personal growth of his wards.
- As a practitioner, he not only acknowledges the competence of his colleagues but also shares his expertise with them.
- As an employee of an institution or agency, he maintains the highest level of performance and professional integrity in any individual or group endeavor.

Specific Principles:

A. *Professional Pronouncements*

In making statements and announcements, a Clinical Psychologist must represent accurately and objectively his professional qualifications, affiliations, and functions, as well as those of the institutions or organizations with which he may be associated. Among these are:

1. Psychologists must not ascribe sponsorship of a professional organization without official sanction of that organization.
2. In research publications, false, misleading or partial disclosure of relevant facts to create favorable result impressions of the services and publications shall not be practiced.
3. In cases where there are discrepancies between the findings of two or more clinicians who have been consulted by the client, the practitioner should exercise restraint in attaching negative implications to the differing opinions.
4. A clinician may assume a case of a client currently in therapy only after a formal termination has been secured.

B. *Relationships with Other Organizations*

Clinical Psychologists need to respect the prerogatives and obligations of the institutions or organizations with which they are associated.

1. As employees of organizations providing psychological services, or as independent psychologists serving clients in an organizational context, they seek to maintain the integrity, reputation, and proprietary rights of the host organization. When it is judged necessary in a client's interest to question the organization's programs or policies, psychologists first attempt to effect change by *constructive action* within the organization. When disclosure of confidential information can no longer be avoided, they should carefully adhere to the guidelines enumerated under the section on Confidentiality.
2. In the pursuit of research or services, they give sponsoring institutions, agencies and publication channels opportunity to review and approve results prior to publication.

C. *Research Precautions*

The Clinical Psychologist researches with the view of contributing to science and preserving human dignity and welfare.

1. The Clinical Psychologist may be justified in exposing research participants (whether children or adults) to physiological or psychological stresses as part of an investigation only when a problem is of invaluable significance and that it cannot be investigated in any other way.

2. A psychologist using animals in research follows the provisions of the law regarding animals.

#### *D. Test Publications*

Psychological tests are offered for commercial publication only to publishers who present these tests in a professional way and distribute them only to qualified users.

1. A test manual, technical book, or other materials on a test is prepared in such a manner that includes the procedure of test construction and standardization, and summarizes the validation research. The purposes for which the test is recommended should be stated in the manual. The population from where the test data were gathered should be described.
2. Test reliability and validity data should be stated and its limitations clearly specified.

The catalog and manual should indicate the training of professional qualifications required for interview.

#### *E. Professional Creditations*

The Clinical Psychologist adheres to the universally accepted policies regarding professional credit.

1. As an author, he sees to it that credit is given to all those who have contributed to a publication in proportion to their contribution. Major contributions of a professional nature which involve the collaborations of several persons are recognized by joint authorship, with the principle experimenter or author listed first. Minor contributions are acknowledged in the introductory statement or footnotes. Published as well as unpublished materials which may have directly influenced the research or writing are acknowledged through specific citations.
2. When charged with the task of compiling and editing the work of others for publication purposes, he publishes the material in the name of the originating group, if any, with his name appearing as chairperson or editor. At the same time, all those who have contributed to the publication are acknowledged and named.

### **III. PUBLIC RELATIONS**

- As a scientist, he remains faithful to publish the truth yet remains open to other truths which enrich his findings.
- As a teacher, he informs the public of other available avenues that may provide for self-improvement.
- As a practitioner, he adheres to ethical standards for disseminating information about his

activities.

- As an employee, he renders services that are well within his competence, and never assumes responsibilities he cannot competently handle.
- As a member of any governmental body, he spells out the limits of the services his office is able to render.

### Specific Principles

#### A. *Promotional Activities*

The Clinical Psychologist must constantly bear in mind that his primary obligation, when engaged in promotional activities, is to assist the public in forming their own informed judgments, opinions and choices.

1. As a developer or promoter of psychological advices, books, or other products offered for commercial sale, he makes sure that announcements and advertisements include scientifically acceptable and factually informative material, and that these are presented in a highly professional manner without any trace of sensationalism, exaggeration, or superficiality.
2. He sees to it that statements in catalogs and courses outlines are accurate and not misleading, particularly in terms of the subject matter to be covered, bases for evaluating progress, and nature of course experiences.
3. In announcements, brochures or advertisements describing workshops, seminars or other educational programs, no misrepresentation should be made.
4. When participating in commercial announcements or advertisements, he does not seek personal gain by recommending the purchase or use of any proprietary or single-course product or service to the general public.
5. A psychologist shall not compensate or give anything of value to a representative of the press, radio, television, or other communication medium in anticipation of, or in return for, professional publicity in a news item.

#### B. *Announcement of Services*

The Clinical Psychologist abides by professional rather than commercial practices when making known his services.

1. Clinicians should refrain from direct solicitation of psychological services.
2. Announcements through telephone listings, brochures, and calling cards of professional services may include such information as: name, highest relevant academic degrees

earned, certification status, address and telephone numbers, office hours and a brief listing of the type of psychological services offered with appropriate presentations of the information.

### *C. Remunerations*

Professional standards that safeguard the best interest of the client and the profession should be upheld in determining fees.

1. The client's ability to pay and the charges made by other professional persons performing comparable functions are taken into consideration in the preparation of charges.
2. A Clinical Psychologist employed by an institution/agency gives his services freely to clients who are directly entitled to such services through the institution or agency.
3. A Clinical Psychologist does not take advantage of his clients through his professional relationship for personal/commercial gain.
4. Reduction of fees for colleagues, professional persons in fields closely related to clinical psychology and members of the families of these groups as well as those of the needy must remain a matter of personal choice for each individual.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **TESTING LEVELS**

#### Level A

The psychologist must have had undergraduate courses in testing or psychometrics and sufficient training and experience in test administration. Tests that may be administered at this level are the pencil and paper test: IQ, Achievement tests, Aptitude tests, etc.

#### Level B

The psychologist has completed an advanced course in testing (graduate level) in a university or its equivalent in training under the direction and supervision of a qualified clinical psychologist or psychological consultant. Tests that are administered and evaluated at this level are those mentioned in Level A and paper and pencil tests of personality: Sentence Completion Tests, MMPI, HTP, and the Wechsler Scales.

May administer (administration only) Draw-a-Person Test, Thematic Apperception Test and Rorschach Psychodiagnosis Test.

#### Level C

The psychologist with an MA or PhD and/or with equivalent experience in training in psychodiagnosis. The tests administered and evaluated at this level are those specified in Levels

A and B, plus the projective techniques: Rorschach Psychodiagnosis Test, Bender Gestalt Visual Motor Test, Draw-a-Person Test, Sentence Completion Tests, Thematic Apperception Test, etc.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **PROPOSED GUIDELINES REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

#### **B.1 Educational Criteria**

##### **B.1.a Psychometrician**

At least an AB or BS degree in psychology  
(or equivalent)

##### **B.1.b Psychologist**

At least an MA degree in psychology

##### **B.1.c Clinical Psychologist**

B.1.c.1 Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from a recognized university.

B.1.c.2 A doctorate degree in allied professions with the equivalent of at least five years of full time clinical experience.

B.1.c.3 An MA degree in clinical/counseling psychology as a major concentration and a practicum in clinical psychology; and

B.1.c.4 An MA in general psychology

B.1.c.4.a At least three years of clinical experience and certification by the PAP Board of Examiners for Practicing Psychologists.

#### **B.2 Job Description**

Substantial function of the clinical psychologist includes psychotherapy, psychodiagnosis, training and evaluation, and research.

Example: clinical tests of intelligence, personality tests and projective techniques.

clinical psychologists can sign all psychological evaluation reports and carry the status of testifying in court.

#### **B.3 Training and Education**

1. Intradepartmental Responsibilities:

He participates in the planning and implementation of training programs for new members of the staff, in-service and continuing education of the staff and student affiliates in psychology.xtradepartmental Responsibilities:

Participates in the planning and implementation of training programs for the other members of the Clinical Team (Psychiatrists, Psychiatric Social Workers, Psychiatric Nurses, OT, Nurse Aids, etc) and student affiliates in the different areas mentioned above.

1. Community Responsibilities and Activities:

- a. Participates in planning and implementation of training (Psychiatric and Non-Psychiatric Personnel in the community).
- b. Is a resource person, lecturer/speaker in mental health programs in the community in seminars, workshops, etc.
- c. Conducts sessions for dissemination of information on: psychology, primary health care and the prevention of mental illness.

B.4 Research

The psychologist's research function is an integral part in the promotion of a high quality of professional mental health delivery for the purpose of collecting empirical data under known and controlled conditions aimed at increasing or advancing psychological knowledge in the clinical domain. This function is as important as diagnosis and treatment for the client's welfare.

## APPENDIX C

### GRANDFATHER CLAUSE

In the case of a member who does not fully satisfy the qualifications stated in A.3 (clinical psychologist) of Appendix B, the designation of "*Clinical Psychologist*" may be given under the following conditions:

- At least 10 years of clinical experience (i.e., diagnostic testing, counseling and psychotherapy, clinical research and training) under a qualified supervisor in a bona fide clinical institution as attested by service records, efficiency ratings; and
- The certification of at least 3 clinical practitioners of good standing who can vouch for the member's sound, moral character and clinical experiences.

The above provisions will be applied on a case to case basis by a Committee on Certification. This grandfather clause will take effect for the first year after its approval.