

The NSW College of Clinical Pastoral Education HANDBOOK

Section 12

Code of Ethics for Trainees

10.1 (This code applies to all who participate in Introductory, Basic, Advanced and Supervisory CPE courses provided at Centres registered or provisionally registered by the NSWCCPE Inc. It is to be read in conjunction with the requirements of the Centre in which the course is taken.)

10.2 Preamble.

10.2.1 This Code of Ethics derives its values from the Christian Gospel, seeking to express those values that are conveyed in God's New Covenant with human beings as revealed in Jesus the Christ. A Biblical understanding of that covenant relationship is used as the foundation upon which the ethical principles are formed.

10.2.2 Another source of understanding is the relationships in the Triune Godhead. Those relationships between the three persons are characterised by divine love. It is that love that is portrayed in the life and ministry of Jesus. It is from his ministry as recorded in Scripture that we are able to translate that love into human relationships in general and into professional relationships in particular.

10.2.3 Generally, these values place upon the supervisor an obligation to act out of Christian love towards all supervisors, fellow trainees and persons with whom they are pastoring. From the demonstration of the divine love in Jesus, the following can be stated.

10.3 General Principles.

10.3.1 These principles indicate the standard to which trainees aspire during their training.

10.3.2 Trainees are aware of their humanity both in its strength and its weakness

10.3.3 Trainees are humbly aware of their frailty and their ability to be unconsciously destructive in human relationships, sometimes despite their endeavours to do otherwise.

10.3.4 Trainees are aware of the inequalities between humans in society that can be a source of power and coercion over others. These can be cultural, hierarchical, organisational, racial, religious or gender based.

- 10.3.5 Trainees are aware of the sources of injustice that can exist in families, work places and other situations and earnestly seek to understand how to withstand them.
- 10.3.6 Trainees are alert to the politics into which they can be unconsciously drawn and seek to learn ways of resolving the conflicts.
- 10.3.7 Trainees seek to learn the subtleties of their own human interactions that lead to disenfranchisement and powerlessness as well as hopelessness and helplessness.
- 10.3.8 Trainees respect the integrity of others.

10.4 As Trainees

- 10.4.1 Trainees use the opportunities for learning provided by the course responsibly.
- 10.4.2 Trainees abide by and respect the rules and practices of the institutions and placements in which they are learning.
- 10.4.3 Trainees behave and relate professionally toward those people with whom they are in a professional relationship and not permit the muddying of those relationships with dual or multiple relationships that are destructive.
- 10.4.4 Trainees respect the right to privacy of their supervisor, fellow trainees and those to whom they minister.
- 10.4.5 Trainees treat confidential all communications with other trainees and those to whom they minister unless otherwise agreed.
- 10.4.6 Trainees hold confidential all information about other trainees and those to whom they minister both during the CPE Program and afterwards.
- 10.4.7 Trainees act benevolently toward fellow trainees and those to whom they minister.
- 10.4.8 Trainees learn to be aware of the implicit and explicit power in both the supervisory alliance and the pastoral relationship. They do not use that power to harm or disadvantage supervisors, fellow trainees or persons to whom they are ministering.
- 10.4.9 Trainees learn to be aware of cultural, racial, gender, religious and other differences. They do not use these differences to disadvantage supervisors, fellow trainees or those whom they pastor.
- 10.4.10 Trainees endeavour to enhance and enrich the growth and ability of their fellow trainees and those whom they pastor.
- 10.4.11 In accepting positions in a CPE Program trainees agree to:
 - enter into the training process and not hinder the learning of other trainees.
 - work cooperatively with their supervisor(s) in the building of a working alliance.
 - cooperatively develop goals and objectives that are attainable within the course.

- negotiate with the supervisor a learning covenant in an open and honest manner.
- where a dispute arises that cannot be settled directly they will use the Centre's procedures and
- if that fails, use the NSWCCPE Inc's Complaints procedure.

I.....agree to work in accordance with this Code of Ethics.

Signed.....

Date.....

