

## **I. Definitions**

**Inquiries** are defined as any occasion in which a member contacts the office of ethics to obtain clarity about any issue pertaining to the ACA Code of Ethics.

**Complaints** are defined as any occasion in which either a member or consumer contacts the office of ethics and expresses a desire to formally file a grievance against a counselor who is suspected of having violated one or more portions of the code of ethics.

**Sanctions** are defined as the penalties applied to any member who is found guilty of having violated one or more portions of the code of ethics. The penalties may include suspension or revocation of one's membership.

## **II. Inquiries**

The number of informal inquiries is tallied, but the tallies are not individually processed, documented and archived in the same manner as the formal inquiries. Therefore, this data should be regarded as a close approximation of the number of informal inquiries received during a calendar year.

### **Approximate number of total inquiries FY '11 : (July 2012—June 2013)**

6,231

#### **Nature of the inquiries:**

Confidentiality issues: 37%

Responsibility (including Duty-to-Warn): 41%

Supervision: 7%

Licensure: 11%

Other: 4%

## **III. Complaint Tally FY '11: (July 2012—June 2013)**

# of Complaints: 4

# Accepted for Adjudication: 2

(Remaining complaints either involved non-members or did not meet standards for adjudication)

# Pending submission to Ethics Committee for Acceptance: 0

# Currently before the Committee: 2

# of cases in which Accused found guilty of ethical violations: 0

## **IV. Sanctions imposed**

No sanctions were imposed during the time period in question.

## **V. Trends**

In the wake of such national tragedies as the Aurora, CO movie theater shooting, the Newtown, CT elementary school shooting and the Boston Marathon bombing, the Office of Ethics has experienced a noticeable increase in the number of inquiries related to Duty-to-Warn issues as counselors work to safeguard clients, communities from clients who may pose a significant threat. Many of these inquiries originate from counselors working within college counseling centers who have specific concerns about students referred to them for mental health services.