

# ACA Ethical Standards Casebook

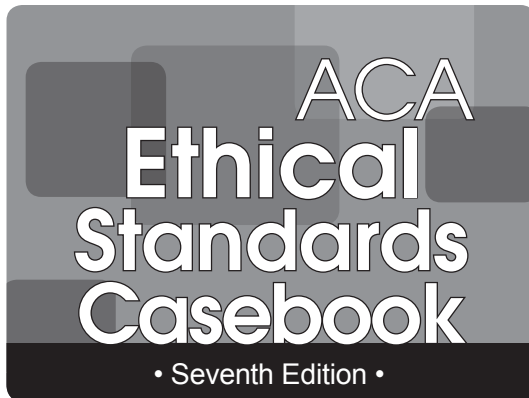
• Seventh Edition •

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Gerald Corey



AMERICAN COUNSELING  
ASSOCIATION

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*To our student readers—the next generation of  
counseling professionals who will guide us  
through uncharted waters.*





# Table of Contents

	Acknowledgments	ix
	About the Authors	xi
	About the Contributors	xiii
	Making the Best Use of the <i>Casebook</i>	xvii
Part I	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
	Evolution of the ACA Ethical Standards and the <i>Casebook</i>	4
	<i>Perry C. Francis</i>	
	Foundations of Codes of Ethics	12
	<i>Barbara Herlihy and Gerald Corey</i>	
	Developing a Personal Ethical Stance	15
	The Ethical Decision-Making Process	15
	A Review of Ethical Decision-Making Models	16
	<i>Melissa D. Deroche, Emeline Eckart, Earniesha Lott, Candace N. Park, and Latrina Raddler</i>	
	Elements of Ethical Decision Making	20
	<i>Barbara Herlihy and Gerald Corey</i>	
	Enforcement of the <i>ACA Code of Ethics</i>	23
	An Inventory of Your Attitudes and Beliefs About Ethical Issues	25
Part II	<b>ACA Code of Ethics With Illustrative Vignettes</b>	<b>33</b>
	Section A	
	The Counseling Relationship	37

*Table of Contents*

Section B		
Confidentiality and Privacy		55
Section C		
Professional Responsibility		66
Section D		
Relationships With Other Professionals		78
Section E		
Evaluation, Assessment, and Interpretation		82
Section F		
Supervision, Training, and Teaching		93
Section G		
Research and Publication		114
Section H		
Distance Counseling, Technology, and Social Media		125
Section I		
Resolving Ethical Issues		133
Part III	<b>Issues and Case Studies</b>	<b>139</b>
Chapter 1		
Client Rights and Informed Consent		143
<i>Gerald Corey and Barbara Herlihy</i>		
Case Study 1: Keep Kendra’s Secret, or Not?		147
<i>Kelly L. Wester</i>		
Case Study 2: A Minor (?) Client		150
<i>J. Scott Young</i>		
Chapter 2		
Social Justice and Counseling Across Cultures		155
<i>Courtland C. Lee</i>		
Case Study 3: She’s Done This Before		162
<i>William B. McKibben and Jodi L. Bartley</i>		
Case Study 4: Working With an Immigrant Family		164
<i>Laura M. Gonzalez</i>		
Chapter 3		
Confidentiality		169
<i>Barbara Herlihy and Gerald Corey</i>		
Case Study 5: The Slap—How to Best Help Hope		176
<i>Chris C. Lauer</i>		

## Table of Contents

Case Study 6: A Supervisee Feels Betrayed <i>Adria Shipp</i>	179
Chapter 4	
Competence <i>Gerald Corey and Barbara Herlihy</i>	183
Case Study 7: I Feel Exhausted <i>Isabel A. Thompson</i>	187
Case Study 8: Couples Counseling Gone Wrong <i>Jennifer M. Johnson</i>	189
Chapter 5	
Managing Value Conflicts <i>Barbara Herlihy and Gerald Corey</i>	193
Case Study 9: I'm Stuck <i>Anneliese A. Singh</i>	198
Case Study 10: A Parental Dilemma: Hastening the Death of a Child <i>Karen Swanson Taheri</i>	202
Chapter 6	
Counseling Minor Clients <i>Mark Salo</i>	205
Case Study 11: A Legal Guardian Presses for Confidential Information <i>Amanda Crawford</i>	207
Case Study 12: A Pregnant Teenager: A School Counselor's Quandary <i>Danielle Shareef</i>	211
Chapter 7	
Managing Boundaries <i>Gerald Corey and Barbara Herlihy</i>	215
Case Study 13: Disputing Unhealthy Beliefs or Imposing Values? <i>Craig S. Cashwell and Tammy H. Cashwell</i>	223
Case Study 14: If You Will Excuse Me <i>Matthew L. Lyons</i>	226
Chapter 8	
Working With Clients Who May Harm Themselves <i>James L. Werth Jr. and Jennifer Stroup</i>	231
Case Study 15: Suicide or a Well-Reasoned End-of-Life Decision? <i>James L. Werth Jr. and Jennifer Stroup</i>	237

## Table of Contents

Case Study 16: A Suicidal Teenager <i>Robert E. Wubbolding</i>	240
Chapter 9	
Technology, Social Media, and Online Counseling <i>Martin Jencius</i>	245
Case Study 17: Making Social Media Decisions for an Agency <i>Martin Jencius</i>	254
Case Study 18: A Client’s Friend Request <i>Martin Jencius</i>	256
Chapter 10	
Supervision and Counselor Education <i>Barbara Herlihy and Gerald Corey</i>	259
Case Study 19: Poor Supervision or Impaired Student? <i>Edward Neukrug and Gina B. Polychronopoulos</i>	264
Case Study 20: An Imposition of Values? <i>Alwin E. Wagener</i>	268
Chapter 11	
Research and Publication <i>Richard E. Watts</i>	273
Case Study 21: Expert Review of a Research Study <i>Richard E. Watts</i>	275
Case Study 22: A Question of Authorship <i>Richard E. Watts</i>	277
Chapter 12	
The Intersection of Ethics and Law <i>Burt Bertram and Anne Marie “Nancy” Wheeler</i>	281
Case Study 23: A Student Commits Suicide <i>Burt Bertram and Anne Marie “Nancy” Wheeler</i>	283
Case Study 24: Good Intentions Go Awry <i>Burt Bertram and Anne Marie “Nancy” Wheeler</i>	286
Highlights of Ethical Practice	289
References	293
Index	303





## Acknowledgments

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We hope students and seasoned practitioners of counseling will find this *Casebook* to be a valuable resource. We believe the *Casebook* can be utilized effectively in an ethics course or in a practicum or internship experience to help future members of our profession learn about their ethical responsibilities and ways to address ethical dilemmas. The vignettes that illustrate the standards help to clarify their intent and provide examples of appropriate practice.

The 12 chapters in this book examine an array of ethical issues: client rights and informed consent; social justice and counseling across cultures; confidentiality; competence; managing value conflicts; counseling minor clients; managing boundaries; working with clients who may harm themselves; technology, social media, and online counseling; counselor education and supervision; research and publication; and the intersection of ethics and law.

Each of the 12 chapters is followed by two case studies that illustrate some of the issues examined in the chapter. Each case study presents an ethical dilemma and is followed by questions for thought and discussion, an analysis of the case, and additional questions for further reflection. Students have often told us that they had never thought about certain ethical questions until they were confronted with cases that raised difficult issues or posed dilemmas that could not be neatly resolved. This *Casebook* gives students an opportunity to examine many ethical issues before they confront them in practice. As you read each of the case studies, put yourself in the role of a consultant to the professional described in the case. If this person were to consult you regarding the case, what would you want to say? You can also assume the role of the counselor, student, supervisor, or professor in the case and reflect on how you might deal with the situation.

For experienced counselors, we hope the *Casebook* serves as a vehicle for continuing education and that you use the material to further your aspirational ethics. As you read, reflect, and discuss the material with your colleagues, ask yourselves: “How can I best monitor my own behavior?” “How can I apply relevant standards to situations I encounter?” “How can I develop increased ethical sensitivity?” “How can I ensure that I am thinking about what is best for my clients, my students, or my supervisees?”

We believe that ethics is best viewed from a developmental perspective. We may look at issues in one way as students; later, with time and experience, our views are likely to have evolved. Ethical reasoning takes on new meaning as we encounter a variety of ethical dilemmas. Professional maturity entails being willing to question ourselves, to discuss our doubts with colleagues, and to engage in continual self-monitoring.