

Code of Ethics

WHEREAS, The National Council and its members hold to the highest moral, legal and professional standards for their conduct and services, and

WHEREAS, The National Council and its members maintain respect both for the privacy and well-being of the persons served and for the welfare and protection of the general public, and

WHEREAS, The National Council strives to enhance the principles of competency, accountability, responsibility, nondiscrimination and service excellence,

NOW BE IT RESOLVED...that the National Council and its members voluntarily subscribe to and uphold the following principles while so affiliated:

- The interest of the person served is always respected. Activities on behalf of the persons served, whether
 individuals, families or organizations, shall always be determined by their best interests. Their rights,
 including appropriate care, confidentiality, informed consent, self-determination and access to records
 are guaranteed.
- Activities shall reflect the best interest of the general public. Authority of and accountability of the
 community are recognized by governing and advisory boards in determining priorities, policies and
 programs. Prevailing legal and moral standards shall be upheld. Questionable practices and programs are
 not condoned. The public's right to have information about programs, finances, policies and procedures is
 acknowledged.
- 3. High professional standards will be maintained and promoted. The National Council and its members at all times require conduct based on accepted principles and professional standards of practice. All staff shall avoid conflicts of interest and misrepresentation of their services, credentials or skills. They recognize accountability to the organization and persons served with whom they are involved and accept responsibility for their own actions. Nondiscriminatory policies are promoted and observed among all persons. Also, the National Council and its members have a primary responsibility to maintain high standards of professional competence and to provide the highest quality of care possible.
- 4. Regard for the integrity of member organizations and other agencies shall be maintained. The rights and interests of all member centers shall be protected and promoted. No actions shall be taken which are detrimental to any member center by another member or by the National Council without due process and Board action. Respect shall be maintained for the rights, policies and procedures of other professional organizations and governmental agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED...that this Code of Ethics be reviewed at every annual meeting of the Board of Directors for the information and guidance of Board members, that all new Board members be advised in writing of this code upon entering on their duties and that this code shall be reviewed annually with all center personnel with advice, in writing, to all new personnel entering on their duties.