

## **Procedures for Individual Ethical Consultation**

### Purpose, Objectives, and Function of Ethics Committee

The basic purpose of the DCPA Ethics Committee is to support and uphold ethical sensitivity and practice among members of the District of Columbia Psychological Association.

We serve primarily as an educative and consultative body to our membership, the DCPA Board and, as appropriate, to the public. We are not an investigative or punitive body.

To achieve our goal of providing education, consultation, and support, the committee intends to provide seminars, consultation groups, and individual consultation. A description of the operational procedures of the individual consultation will be provided below.

Information about the workshops, professional training and seminars will be provided on an ongoing basis as events are scheduled.

### Operating procedures and policies of the Ethics Committee:

1. The Ethics Committee will provide individual ethics consultation to the DCPA members, non-member psychologists and the public within the limits of its competency. The committee members and their areas of interest and expertise are as follows: Doug Favero: LGBT issues, group therapy, grieving and loss, and supervision. Jean Gearon: trauma, research, and integration of mind/body approaches to treatment. Stephen Lally: forensic psychology and assessment issues. Marilyn Schwartz: adult ADHD, couples therapy and life transition. Suzan Stafford: PTSD, couples therapy, and disaster response. Stephen Stein: psychotherapy integration,

mind/body approaches to treatment, trauma, supervision and training. Jeanette Witter: trauma, women's issues, and LGBT.

2. The Ethics Committee will provide ethics consultation to DCPA members, non-member psychologists and the public within the limits of its competency.
3. The Chair of the Ethics Committee in collaboration with the Committee will determine a rotation of committee members responding to requests for ethics consultation.
4. Requests for ethics consultation will be responded to by a member of the Ethics Committee within a 48 hour period of time.
5. The Ethics Committee will observe the strictest confidentiality in providing Ethics consultations to DCPA members, non-member psychologists and the public.
6. To provide uniformity and consistency of response, in cases that seem unclear, extremely complicated, or beyond the expertise of the committee member on call, the caller will consult with the chair and/or the other members of the committee whose expertise is better suited to address the concern in question.
7. Persons making complaints to the Ethics Committee about ethical concerns or ethical infractions of DCPA members or non-member psychologists will be referred to the DC Psychologist Licensing Board or the Ethics Committee of the American Psychological Association.
8. Persons presenting to the Ethics Committee questions or concerns of a legal nature will be referred to appropriate sources of legal information or consultation.

9. The Ethics Committee will periodically inform the Board of any patterns or trends in ethical concerns or issues that may be of interest to the DCPA membership at large.

We as a committee very much look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

Respectfully,

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Chair, Ethics Committee  
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