

AAC Application

Associate Addiction
Counselor

DIRECTIONS/CHECKLIST

- Official transcript required sent directly from college/university to the PCB Office or a copy of your High School Diploma/GED. It is recommended you request transcripts approximately three weeks prior to sending in your application.
- Copies of certificates of attendance for trainings.
- Current job description signed and dated by applicant and supervisor. This document is provided by your employer.
- Previous relevant employment documentation (if needed). Acceptable documentation includes a letter (on company letterhead) from previous employer(s) verifying your duties and dates employed.
- Application Acknowledgements form notarized.
- Supervision form completed and signed by supervisor.
- If you have ever received any disciplinary action from another certification or licensing authority, please include a letter of explanation with your application.
- If you have ever been convicted of a felony, please include a letter of explanation with your application.
- Fee of \$125. May be paid by check/money order (payable to PCB) or with VISA, MasterCard or Discover. One-half of fee is refundable if application is denied. If an employer or organization is covering the cost of your application fee, they must include the applicants name with the payment. Failure to include the applicants name will result in delay in approval of the application.

If there are any problems with the application, you will be notified by email. Applications are open for a period of one year after the date of review. If an applicant fails to fulfill all certification requirements within that year, the application will be closed and no refund will be issued.

Keep a photocopy of the entire application.

TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION, CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Mail:

PCB
298 S. Progress Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Email:

info@pacertboard.org

Fax:

717-540-4458

Please allow 5-10 business days for review and processing of your application.

To confirm receipt of your application, or check on the status you must email info@pacertboard.org.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AAC

Employment

- One year (2000 hours) of employment as an alcohol and drug counselor or supervisor of same. Employment must have been gained within the last seven years.
 - Applicant must be currently employed in a counseling position at the time application is submitted.
 - Acceptable employment is based on applicant providing direct, primary alcohol and drug counseling to persons whose primary diagnosis is that of alcohol and/or drug addiction or that applicant is providing supervision of addiction counseling.
 - Applicant must have primary responsibility for providing counseling in an individual and/or group setting, preparing treatment plans, documenting client progress and is clinically supervised by an individual who is knowledgeable in addiction.
- Current job description dated and signed by supervisor and applicant.

Supervision

- 100 hours of on-the-job supervision in the domains.
 - Supervision is a formal or informal process that is administrative, evaluative, clinical, and supportive. It can be provided by more than one person, it ensures quality of clinical care, and extends over time. Supervision includes observation, mentoring, coaching, evaluating, inspiring, and creating an atmosphere that promotes self-motivation, learning, and professional development. In all aspects of the supervision process, ethical and diversity issues must be in the forefront.

Education

- Minimum high school diploma or GED.
- 100 hours of education specific to the domains of which at least six hours must be in professional ethics and responsibilities.
 - Education is defined as formal, structured instruction in the form of workshops, seminars, institutes, in-services, college/university credit courses and PCB approved distance education.
 - Education must be specifically related to the tasks within the domains.
 - Education in CPR/First Aid and computer learning will be acceptable for a maximum of six hours each.
 - Three college credits are equivalent to 45 hours.
 - Education, as defined above, applicant provides to others may also be used providing it is verified in writing by sponsoring school or agency.
 - There is no time limit on the use of education for initial certification.

Other

- Signed, dated and notarized Application Acknowledgements.
- Applicant must either live or work in PA at time of application.

Domains

1. Screening, Assessment, and Engagement
2. Treatment Planning, Collaboration, and Referral
3. Counseling
4. Professional & Ethical Responsibilities

Fees

Certification: \$125 *(fee must accompany application and materials)*

CERTIFICATION TIME PERIOD

AAC encompasses two calendar years and may be recertified. Two dates, date of issue and valid through, will appear on the certificate along with a certification number. The AAC is a time-limited certification. A professional may only hold the AAC for up to four years (initial certification, plus one recertification). The AAC must upgrade to another certification prior to or at the time of expiration of their AAC. Employment, education and supervision accrued to earn and/or recertify the AAC will be applied towards the upgrade. Professionals should contact the PCB office to determine what documentation will be needed to complete the upgrade process.

APPEAL PROCESS

The purpose of appeal is to determine if PCB accurately, adequately and fairly reviewed applicant's file. A letter requesting an appeal must be made to PCB in writing within 30 days of the notification of the board's action. A person shall be considered notified three days after the relevant date of mailing. The written appeal will be sent to the Executive Committee who in turn will thoroughly review the entire application and materials to determine whether or not applicant should have been denied approval. Applicant will be notified in writing as to the findings of the Executive Committee.

RECERTIFICATION

To maintain the high standards of this professional practice and to assure continuing awareness of new knowledge in the field, PCB requires recertification every two years.

To be recertified as an AAC, an individual must:

1. Hold a current and valid certificate issued by PCB;
2. Acquire 40 hours of PCB approved education including three hours in professional ethics and responsibilities received within the two year recertification cycle. Professionals recertifying their credential(s) may be subject to an audit. Review the recertification application for more details;
3. Verify that you have reviewed, read and will uphold by practice the PCB Code of Ethical Conduct for professional behavior;
4. Complete an application and pay the recertification fee.

PCB APPLICATION FOR AAC

Please type or print only.

Date: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Male Female

Name: _____ SSN: _____
Please print your name as it should appear on your certificate

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____
(required)

College/University: _____ Name on Transcript: _____

Employer: _____ Position/Title: _____

Employer City: _____ Employer Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Ext: _____

Hire Date: _____ Hours per Week: _____

Immediate Supervisor: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I hereby attest that the applicant is providing direct, primary alcohol and drug counseling OR that the applicant is providing supervision of counseling.

The applicant has primary responsibility for providing or supervising alcohol and drug counseling in individual and/or group settings, preparing treatment plans, documenting client progress and is clinically supervised by an individual who is knowledgeable in addiction.

I also attest that the applicant has received at least 100 hours of on-the-job supervision providing alcohol and drug counseling with a minimum of 10 hours in each domain.

Supervisor's Signature

1. Have you ever received any disciplinary action from another certification or licensing authority? Yes No
If yes, provide full details on a separate sheet.
2. Have you ever been convicted of a felony violation in any state or federal law? Yes No
If yes, please explain in full on a separate sheet.
3. I understand that if I wish to change my application to a different credential offered by PCB there will be a \$50 change/review fee required. Yes No

Why are you pursuing certification? _____

Race (check all that apply): American Indian or Alaska Native Black or African American Asian
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Latino Hispanic Caucasian Other: _____

What best describes your employment plans for the next 12 months (select one)? Increase hours Decrease hours
 Retire No change Seek career advancement Move to a different career Unknown

Fee of \$125 can be paid using one of the following:

Payment (circle one): Check Money Order VISA MasterCard Discover
Checks & Money Orders made payable to PCB

Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

3-digit code: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Name on Card: _____

Billing address: _____
(If different than Home Address) _____

Email address for receipt *(if paying by credit card only)*: _____

TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION, CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Mail:
PCB
298 S. Progress Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Email:
info@pacertboard.org

Fax:
717-540-4458

Please allow 5-10 business days for review and processing of your recertification application.
To confirm receipt of your application, or check on the status you must email info@pacertboard.org.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT, IF APPLICABLE

Include letter (on company letterhead) from previous employer verifying your duties and dates employed. This section does not need to be completed if you have completed the minimum number of experience hours at your current employer.

Name of Employer: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Your Title: _____ Hours per Week: _____

Dates Employed: _____ Immediate Supervisor: _____

Name of Employer: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Your Title: _____ Hours per Week: _____

Dates Employed: _____ Immediate Supervisor: _____

Name of Employer: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Your Title: _____ Hours per Week: _____

Dates Employed: _____ Immediate Supervisor: _____

AAC CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

PREAMBLE

The Pennsylvania Certification Board (referred to herein as "the Board" or "PCB") provides voluntary certification for substance abuse and other behavioral health professionals as a way of assuring competence to clients, to the public, and to employers. PCB is dedicated to the principle that individuals in the field of substance abuse and other behavioral health services must be held to the highest standards of ethical practice. To that end, the PCB has adopted this Code of Ethical Conduct, to be applied to all professionals certified by or seeking certification by the Board. Individuals are subject to this Code from the date of application to PCB by the applicant. The Code of Ethical Conduct exists for the protection of clients.

The Code is divided into three sections: (1) a Glossary of key terms used in the Code; (2) the Rules of Conduct, which set forth the standards which professionals are required to observe and discussions of selected standards; (3) the Disciplinary Procedures that will be followed by the Board in investigating alleged violations of the Rules. The Board is committed to investigate and sanction those who breach this Code. Certified professionals are, therefore, encouraged to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the Code and to guide their behavior according to the Rules set forth below.

Transparency or being visible about your professional behavior is paramount to maintaining the high standards set by PCB's code of ethical conduct and that is expected of certified professionals. Transparency is not an ethical principle but a professional condition. Transparency is about information and it embodies honesty and open communication. You must be willing to share information when it is uncomfortable to do so. Transparency is an individual being honest with him/herself about the actions they are taking. It means keeping your actions aboveboard. A commitment to transparency demonstrates to the community, the agency, and the client that there is nothing to hide.

All certified professionals will eventually be faced with ethical dilemmas that are difficult to resolve and offer challenges to their professional practice. Ethical resolution is a critical process and all certified professionals are expected to engage in ethical decision-making that includes the evaluation of context of the situation, meaningful values, the appropriate ethical standards, is consultative in nature and includes a credible model for ethical decision-making. PCB, through its Ethics Committee, is available and willing to act in a consultative fashion to answer any questions pertaining to ethical conduct or dilemmas faced by certified professionals.

GLOSSARY

Appeals Committee: Three PCB board members appointed to hear an appeal.

Certified Professional: A person who holds or applies for a PCB credential classification.

Client: Any person(s) who, either currently or in the past, has received or is receiving services

Complainant: A person(s) who files a complaint with PCB against a certified professional under PCB jurisdiction or, in appropriate cases, PCB may initiate an ethics inquiry and act as complainant.

Ethics: A standard of behavior by which certified professionals must abide.

Ethics Committee: A PCB standing committee charged with the responsibility to review, investigate and sanction as determined appropriate to those who breach the Code of Ethical Conduct. The committee is comprised of PCB board members and/or its designees.

Hearing Panel: A panel comprised of PCB Ethics Committee members with a responsibility to hear and make recommendations in accordance with the Code of Ethical Conduct.

Hearing Officer: The PCB Ethics Committee Chairperson or Co-Chairperson who presides over an ethics hearing.

Counselor Credentials: Associate Addiction Counselor, Certified Associate Addiction Counselor, Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

Prevention Credentials: Associate Prevention Specialist, Certified Prevention Specialist.

Clinical Supervisor Credential: Certified Clinical Supervisor.

Allied Credential: Certified Allied Addiction Practitioner.

Case Manager Credentials: Certified Case Manager, Certified Case Manager Supervisor.

Criminal Justice Credential: Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional.

Co-Occurring Credentials: Certified Co-Occurring Disorders Professional, Certified Co-Occurring Disorders Professional Diplomate.

Recovery Credentials: Certified Recovery Specialist, Certified Family Recovery Specialist.

Intervention Credential: Certified Intervention Professional.

Plagiarism: An act of appropriating the language, ideas, or thoughts from another person and representing them as one's own original work.

Public Reprimand: A sanction that is a formal, written, published reproof or warning to a Respondent who the Ethics Committee has determined to have breached the Code of Ethical Conduct.

Respondent: A certified professional against whom an ethical complaint has been filed.

Revocation: A sanction resulting in the complete and permanent forfeiture of PCB certification.

Score of Services: The range of services deemed appropriate and necessary for an individual client. Such services may include but are not limited to prevention, intervention, outreach, information and referral, detoxification, inpatient or outpatient, extended care, transitional living, aftercare, recovery support services, and clinical supervision.

Suspension: A sanction resulting in the temporary forfeiture of PCB certification for a time-limited period to be determined by the PCB Ethics Committee.

Written Caution: The least restrictive disciplinary action that a Respondent may receive due to breaching the Code of Ethical Conduct. This sanction is a formal, private, non-published letter of warning to the Respondent that cautions the Respondent against certain conduct or behavior.

RULES OF CONDUCT

The following Rules of Conduct, adopted by the PCB, set forth the minimum standards of conduct which all certified professionals are expected to honor. Failure to comply with an obligation or prohibition set forth in the rules may result in discipline by the PCB.

Discussion sections accompany some of the rules. These discussions are intended to interpret, explain, or illustrate the meaning of the rules, but the rules themselves remain the authoritative standards of the conduct for which disciplinary action may be imposed.

UNLAWFUL CONDUCT

Rule 1.1: Once certified, a professional shall not be cited, arrested, or convicted for any summary offense, misdemeanor or felony relating to the individual's ability to provide substance abuse and other behavioral health services or that reflects conduct unbecoming a professional as determined by PCB.

Discussion: A certificate of conviction shall be deemed conclusive evidence of an individual's guilt of the felony or misdemeanor for which he or she has been charged. If the citation, arrest, or conviction relates to the individual's ability to provide substance abuse and other behavioral health services or reflects conduct unbecoming a certified professional, as determined by PCB, this shall be deemed a violation of this Rule. Some of the specific examples within this section include but are not limited to crimes involving violence, use or sale of any controlled or psychoactive substance, driving while intoxicated/impaired, fraud, theft, and sexual misconduct. PCB may choose to allow pending charges against the certified professional to be settled through the judicial system before rendering their decision on an ethics complaint.

ROMANTIC/SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Rule 2.1: A certified professional shall, under no circumstances, engage in romantic/sexual activities or romantic/sexual contact with clients, whether such contact is consensual or forced. This prohibition applies to both in person and electronic interactions or relationships.

Rule 2.2: A certified professional shall not engage in romantic/sexual activities or romantic/sexual contact with clients' relatives or other individuals with whom clients maintain a close personal relationship when there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client. This prohibition applies to both in person and electronic interactions or relationships.

Discussion: Romantic/sexual activities or romantic/sexual contact with clients' relatives or other individuals with whom clients maintain a personal relationship has the potential to be harmful to the client and may make it difficult for the certified professional and client to maintain appropriate professional boundaries. Certified professionals, not their clients, their clients' relatives, or other individuals with whom the client maintains a personal relationship, assume the full burden of setting clear, appropriate, and culturally responsive boundaries. Romantic activities are oftentimes non-sexual in nature and may include emotional attraction toward another person such as love, intimacy, compassion, appreciation and affinity.

Rule 2.3: A certified professional shall not engage in romantic/sexual activities or romantic/sexual contact with former clients because of the potential harm to the client. This prohibition applies to both in person and electronic interactions or relationships.

Discussion: If certified professionals engage in conduct contrary to this prohibition or claim that an exception to this prohibition is warranted because of extraordinary circumstances, it is certified professionals, not their clients, who assume the full burden of demonstrating that the former client has not been exploited, coerced, or manipulated, intentionally or unintentionally.

Rule 2.4: A certified professional shall not provide clinical services to individuals with whom they have had a prior romantic/sexual relationship. This prohibition applies to both in person and electronic interactions or relationships.

Discussion: Providing clinical services to a former romantic/sexual partner has the potential to be harmful to the individual and is likely to make it difficult for the certified professional and individual to maintain appropriate professional boundaries.

FRAUD-RELATED CONDUCT

Rule 3.1: A certified professional shall not: 1) present or cause to be presented a false or fraudulent claim, or any proof in support of such claim, to be paid under any contract or certificate of insurance; 2) prepare, make, or subscribe to a false or fraudulent account, certificate, affidavit, proof of loss, or other document or writing, with knowledge that the same may be presented or used in support of a claim for payment under a policy of insurance; or 3) present or cause to be presented a false or fraudulent claim or benefit application, or any false or fraudulent proof in support of such a claim or benefit

application, or false or fraudulent information, which would affect a future claim or benefit application, or be paid under any employee benefit program; 4) seek to have an employee commit fraud or assist in an act of commission or omission to aid fraud related behavior.

Discussion: The term "fraudulent claim" includes but is not limited to charging a client or a third-party payor for a service not performed or submitting an account or charge for services that is false or misleading. It does not include charging for an unkept appointment when the original verbal or written contract for services allows for such a charge.

Rule 3.2: An individual shall not use misrepresentation in the procurement of certification or recertification or assist another in the preparation or procurement of certification or recertification through misrepresentation. The term misrepresentation includes but is not limited to the misrepresentation of professional qualifications, education, certification, accreditation, affiliations, employment experience, the plagiarism of application and recertification materials, or the falsification of references.

Rule 3.3: An individual shall not use a title designation, credential or license, firm name, letterhead, publication, term, title, or document which states or implies an ability, relationship, or qualification that does not exist and to which they are not entitled.

Rule 3.4: A certified professional shall not sign or issue, in their professional capacity, a document or a statement that the professional knows or should have known to contain a false or misleading statement.

Rule 3.5: A certified professional shall not produce, publish, create, or participate in the creation of any false, fraudulent, deceptive, or misleading advertisement.

Rule 3.6: A certified professional who participates in the writing, editing, or publication of professional papers, media resources, brochures or books must act to preserve the integrity of the profession by acknowledging and documenting any materials and/or techniques or people (i.e. co-authors, researchers, etc.) used in creating their opinions/papers, books, etc.

Discussion: Any work that is copied prior to receipt of approval by the author is discouraged. Whenever and wherever possible, the certified professional should seek permission from the author/creator of such materials. The use of copyrighted materials without first receiving author approval is against the law and, therefore, in violation of this Rule.

DUAL RELATIONSHIPS/EXPLOITATION OF CLIENTS

Rule 4.1: A certified professional shall not initiate, develop, and/or maintain dual/exploitative relationships with clients and/or family members of clients. This prohibition applies to both in person and electronic interactions or relationships.

Discussion: Ethical problems are often raised when those persons providing services blend their professional relationships with another kind of relationship. Dual relationships can take many forms and are inherent in the work of all helping professions regardless of their setting or client population. The nature of the professional-client relationship is such that the client remains vulnerable to the real or perceived influences of the professional.

Dual relationships may make it difficult for the professional to maintain appropriate professional boundaries. It is the professional's responsibility to assume the full burden for setting clear, appropriate, and culturally responsive boundaries. Examples of dual or multiple relationships that are potentially exploitive through the violation of professional boundaries include but are not limited to: romantic/sexual relationships, bartering arrangements, business arrangements, counseling ones' own family members, friendship, and social networking with clients and/or family members of clients. Social networking shall be defined to include but not limited to blogs, podcasts, wikis, pictures, email, instant messaging, forums, chat rooms, Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, texting, etc.

Unavoidable or potentially helpful dual relationships should be discussed with a supervisor and documented prior to the interaction when feasible.

Rule 4.2: A certified professional shall not misappropriate property from clients and/or family members of clients.

Rule 4.3: A certified professional shall not enter or maintain a financial dual relationship that results in financial gain to the certified professional, client or a third party.

Rule 4.4: A certified professional shall not promote to a client for their personal gain any treatment, procedure, product, or service.

Rule 4.5: A certified professional shall not ask for nor accept gifts or favors from clients and/or family members of clients.

Discussion: When a certified professional "plays" or "preys" upon the client's gratitude for services or covertly or overtly implies or states that the client remains indebted and should "repay" him or her through gifts or other favors, violates this rule. The unique position of trust and responsibility with the client not only becomes jeopardized, but the certified professional has also engaged in unethical actions.

Rule 4.6: A certified professional shall not offer, give, or receive commissions, rebates, or any other forms of remuneration for a client referral.

Discussion: Notwithstanding this provision, a certified professional may pay an independent advertising or marketing agent compensation for advertising or marketing services rendered on their behalf by such agent. Included in this would be compensation for referrals of clients identified through such services on a per client basis.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Rule 5.1: A certified professional shall not in any way participate in discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, socio-economic status, political belief, psychiatric or psychological impairment, or physical disability.

Discussion: The certified professional who promotes, condones, or engages in discriminatory conduct towards a client, a client's family, or a client's significant other(s) during the professional activities creates an atmosphere that constitutes conduct contrary to the principles of the profession.

Rule 5.2: A certified professional who fails to seek therapy for any psychoactive substance abuse or dependence, psychiatric or psychological impairment, emotional distress, or for any other physical health related adversity that interferes with their professional functioning shall be in violation of this rule. Where any such conditions exist, and impede their ability to function competently, a certified professional must request inactive status of their PCB credential for medical reasons for as long as necessary.

Rule 5.3: A certified professional shall meet and comply with all terms, conditions, or limitations of a certification or license.

Rule 5.4: A certified professional shall not perform services outside of their area of training, expertise, competence, or scope of practice.

Discussion: A certified professional must continually enrich his or her professional knowledge and must competently comprehend the domains of the credential. They shall not perform any client services in a manner that falls below the minimum standards of competence for the substance abuse and other behavioral health profession.

It is recognized that honest disagreements may exist between professionals as to the best form of service for a given client. Competency does not mean perfection; nor is incompetence normally established by the showing of an isolated instance in which performance has been inadequate. However, when a professional demonstrates multiple inadequacies in performance, or when their behavior portrays a gross neglect of a client's rights and condition, a finding of incompetence will be warranted, and disciplinary action imposed.

A certified professional should not use a modality or a technique if they do not have supervision/consultation, education, training, or skills to perform in a competent or qualified manner.

Rule 5.5: A certified professional shall not reveal confidential information obtained as the result of a professional relationship, without the prior written consent from the recipient of services, except as authorized or required by law.

Rule 5.6: The certified professional shall not permit publication of photographs, disclosure of client names or records, or the nature of services being provided without securing all requisite releases from the client, or parents or legal guardians of the clients.

Discussion: The certified professional can unwittingly compromise a client's right to confidentiality by permitting photographs and articles in publications that identify clients, and/or the nature of services being provided without securing releases.

Rule 5.7: The certified professional shall not discontinue professional services to a client nor shall they abandon the client without facilitating an appropriate closure of professional services for the client.

Discussion: In the case of a certified professional who has direct care responsibilities, this person shall not discontinue professional services to a client unless 1) services have been completed; 2) the client requests the discontinuation; 3) alternative or replacement services are arranged, or the client is given reasonable opportunity to arrange alternative or replacement services.

Rule 5.8: A certified professional shall seek consultation or make appropriate referral when the person's problem is beyond their area of training, expertise, competence, or scope of practice.

Discussion: Certified professionals should strive to achieve and maintain the highest level of professional competence. To provide the highest standard of service for clients, they must maintain the commitment to assess their own personal strengths, limitations, biases, and effectiveness. When a certified professional recognizes that a client's needs exceed their education, training, and capabilities, they must pursue advice and counsel from colleagues and supervisors. When a client's issues are outside the professional's level of functioning or scope of service, they must refer the client to another professional who will provide the appropriate service.

SAFETY & WELFARE

Rule 6.1: When a condition of clear and imminent danger exists that a client may inflict serious bodily harm on another person or persons, a certified professional shall, consistent with federal and state confidentiality laws, take reasonable steps to warn any likely victims of the client's potential behavior.

Discussion: If during treating the client, a certified professional becomes aware that a client intends or is likely to commit some act which may result in serious bodily harm to another person or persons and there is a clear and imminent danger of such harm occurring, the certified professional has a duty to take reasonable steps to warn such persons. In doing so, the certified professional should be aware that state and federal regulations set forth rules concerning the confidentiality of certified professional-client or person seeking certification-client communications and client records and identifying information. In cases where the threat is of the commission of a crime on agency premises or against agency personnel, the rules may allow disclosure of the circumstances of the threatened crime and identity of the consumer directly to law enforcement officers. In some instances, however, to warn the likely victims of the client's actions, it may be necessary for the certified professional or the agency to make an emergency application to a court for an order permitting disclosure of information concerning the client or communications from the client before such information can be disclosed.

Rule 6.2: When a condition of clear and imminent danger exists that a client may inflict serious bodily self-harm, the certified professional shall, consistent with federal and state confidentiality laws, take reasonable steps to protect the client.

Discussion: If during treating a client, certified professional becomes aware that a client intends or is likely to inflict serious bodily harm to himself or herself and that there is a clear and imminent danger of such harm occurring, the certified professional has a duty to take reasonable steps to protect the client. The certified professional should be aware that state and federal regulations set forth rules concerning confidentiality.

Under those rules, it may be permissible in some cases to communicate information about an individual if done in a manner that does not disclose the individual's status as a client in treatment. In other cases, however, to protect the client, it may be necessary for the certified professional or their agency to make an emergency application to a court for an order permitting disclosure of information concerning the client or communication from the client before such information can be disclosed.

Rule 6.3: All certified professionals are mandated child abuse reporters.

Discussion: Certified professionals are encouraged to be familiar with all applicable state child abuse reporting laws.

RECORD KEEPING

Rule 7.1: A certified professional shall not falsify, amend, or knowingly make incorrect entries or fail to make timely essential entries into the client record.

ASSISTING UNQUALIFIED/UNLICENSED PRACTICE

Rule 8.1: A certified professional shall not refer a client to a person that he/she knows or should have known is not qualified by training, experience, certification, or license to perform the delegated professional responsibility.

DISCIPLINE IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Rule 9.1: A certified professional holding a certification, license, or other authorization to practice issued by any certification authority or any state, province, territory, tribe, or federal government whose certification or license has been suspended, revoked, placed on probation, or other restriction or discipline shall promptly alert PCB of such disciplinary action.

COOPERATION WITH THE BOARD

Rule 10.1: A certified professional shall cooperate in any investigation conducted pursuant to this Code of Ethical Conduct and shall not interfere with an investigation or a disciplinary proceeding or attempt to prevent a disciplinary proceeding or other legal action from being filed, prosecuted, or completed. Interference attempts may include but are not limited to: the willful misrepresentation of facts before the disciplining authority or its authorized representative; the use of threats or harassment against, or an inducement to, any client or witness in an effort to prevent them from providing evidence in a disciplinary proceeding or any other legal action; the use of threats or harassment against, or an inducement to, any person in an effort to prevent or attempt to prevent a disciplinary proceeding or other legal action from being filed, prosecuted or completed; refusing to accept and/or respond to a letter of complaint, allowing a credential to lapse while an ethics complaint is pending, or attempting to resign a credential while an ethics complaint is pending. Violation of this rule under these circumstances will result in the immediate and indefinite suspension of the certified professional's credential until the ethical complaint is resolved.

Rule 10.2: A certified professional shall not make a false statement to the PCB or any other disciplinary authority; promptly alert colleagues informally to potentially unethical behavior; report violations of professional conduct of other certified professionals to the appropriate licensing/disciplinary authority when he/she knows or should have known that another certified professional has violated ethical standards and has failed to take corrective action after informal intervention.

Rule 10.3: A certified professional with firsthand knowledge of the actions of a respondent or a complainant shall cooperate with the PCB investigation or disciplinary proceeding. Failure or an unwillingness to cooperate in the PCB investigation or disciplinary proceeding shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

Rule 10.4: A certified professional shall not file a complaint or provide information to the PCB which he/she knows or should have known is false or misleading.

Rule 10.5: In submitting information to PCB, a certified professional shall comply with any requirements pertaining to the disclosure of client information established by the federal or state government.

AAC APPLICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This page must be completed and notarized and submitted with the application.

Please initial each statement below:

___ I have read, and understood the PCB AAC Code of Ethics.

___ I either live or work in Pennsylvania at least 51% of the time.

___ I understand that one-half of fee is refundable if application is denied.

___ I understand that my application is open for a period of one year after the date of review. If I fail to fulfill all certification requirements within that year, the application will be closed and no refund will be issued.

___ I understand that if I request to have my application re-reviewed for another credential PCB offers prior to granting the certification to the professional, I will incur a \$50 application change/review fee.

I hereby request that PCB grant the credential to me based on the following assurances and documentation:

___ I subscribe to and commit myself to professional conduct in keeping with the PCB Code of Ethical Conduct;

___ I hereby certify that the information given herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I also authorize any necessary investigation and the release of information relative to my certification. Falsification of any records or documents in my application will nullify this application and will result in denial or revocation of certification;

___ I consent to the release of information contained in my application and any other pertinent data submitted to or collected by PCB to officers, members, and staff of the aforementioned Board;

___ I consent to authorize PCB to gather information from third parties regarding continuing education and employment and understand that such communication shall be treated as confidential;

___ Allegations of ethical misconduct reported to PCB before, during, or after application for certification is made will be investigated by PCB and could result in the nullification of the application or denial or revocation of certification.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

On this the ___ day of _____, 201_, by me _____

a notary public, the undersigned officer, personally appeared: _____,

known to me or satisfactorily proven to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and

acknowledged that she/he executed the same for the purposes therein contained. In witness whereof, I hereby set my

hand and official seal. Sworn and subscribed before me this ___ day of _____, 201_.

_____ **SEAL:**

Notary Public