

**SECTION 7.** Code of Conduct for Counselors in California – must be signed by all California counselors. This Code of Conduct is the standard that will be used by the State of California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) in enforcement of the California Code of Regulations, Title 9, Division 4, Chapter 8, sections 13000, et seq, relating to the registration and certification of alcohol and other drug (AOD) counselors.

**California Certified AOD Counselors – Uniform Code of Conduct – Effective date September 1, 2009**

This Code of Conduct shall prohibit registrants and certified alcohol and other drug (AOD) counselors from:

1. Securing a certification or registration by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation on any application submitted to the certifying organization whether engaged in by an applicant for certification or registration or in support of any application for certification or registration.
2. Administering to himself or herself any controlled substance as defined in section 4021 of the Business and Professions Code, or using any of the dangerous drugs or devices specified in section 4022 of the Business and Professions Code or using any alcoholic beverage to the extent, or in a manner, as to be dangerous or injurious to the person applying for a certification or holding a registration or certification, or to any other person, or to the public, or, to the extent that the use impairs the ability of the person applying for or holding a registration or certification to conduct with safety to the public the counseling authorized by the registration or certification.
3. Gross negligence or incompetence in the performance of alcohol and other drug counseling.
4. Violating, attempting to violate, or conspiring to violate any regulation adopted by ADP.
5. Misrepresentation as to the type or status of certification or registration held by the person, or otherwise misrepresenting or permitting misrepresentation of his or her education, professional qualifications, or professional affiliations to any person or entity, and failure to state appropriate certification or licensure initials, numbers and/or level of registration or certification on business cards, brochures, websites, etc.
6. Impersonation of another by any counselor or registrant, or applicant for a certification or registration, or, in the case of a counselor, allowing any other person to use his or her certification or registration.
7. Aiding or abetting any uncertified or unregistered person to engage in conduct for which certification or registration is required.
8. Providing services beyond the scope of his/he registration or certification as an AOD counselor or his or her professional license, if the individual is a licensed counselor as defined in Section 13015.
9. Intentionally or recklessly causing physical or emotional harm to any client.
10. The commission of any dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent act substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a counselor or registrant.
11. Engaging in sexual relations with a client or with a former client within two years from the termination date of therapy with the client, soliciting sexual relations with a client, or committing an act of sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct with a client, or committing an act punishable as a sexually related crime, if that act or solicitation is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of an alcohol and other drug counselor.
12. Engaging in a social or business relationship with clients, program participants, patients, or residents or other persons significant to them while they are in treatment and exploiting former clients, program participants, patients, or residents.
13. Verbally, physically or sexually harassing, threatening, or abusing any participant, patient, resident, their family members, other persons who are significant to them, or other staff members.
14. Failure to maintain confidentiality, except as otherwise required or permitted by law, including but not limited to Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Part 2.
15. Advertising that in reasonable probability will cause an ordinarily prudent person to misunderstand or be deceived; makes a claim either of professional superiority or of performing services in a superior manner, unless that claim is relevant to the service being performed and can be substantiated with objective scientific evidence; makes a scientific claim that cannot be substantiated by reliable, peer reviewed, published scientific studies.
16. Failure to keep records consistent with sound professional judgment, the standards of the profession, and the nature of the services being rendered.
17. Willful denial of access to client records as otherwise provided by law.