

Ethical Legal and Professional Issues in Counseling
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MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Chapter 1 Introduction

1. Law and ethics differ from one another in that:
 - a. laws dictate minimum standards of behavior that society will tolerate, whereas ethics represent the ideal standards expected by the profession.
 - b. ethics dictate minimum standards of behavior that society will tolerate, whereas laws represent the ideal standards expected by the profession.
 - c. ethics and laws have the same standards.
 - d. laws require that counselors always follow the profession's ethical standards.
 - e. ethics and laws are often in conflict because they are so different from one another.
2. The best statement about the nature of professional ethics in counseling is that:
 - a. if counselors study ethical codes and keep current with the professional literature, they can be assured of practicing in an ethical manner.
 - b. in order to practice in an ethical manner, counselors must always be in compliance with federal and state laws.
 - c. because there are few absolute right answers to ethical practice questions, consultation with counseling colleagues is very important when making ethical decisions.
 - d. because there are few absolute right answers to ethical practice questions, consultation with lawyers is very important when making ethical decisions.
 - e. the ethical standards have changed very little in the last 50 years, so if counselors learn the rules, they will be able to practice in an ethical manner.
3. The personal values of counselors:
 - a. have no place in the counseling session.
 - b. should be completely altruistic.
 - c. are influenced by their families of origin and their cultures, among other factors.
 - d. are rooted in universal moral principles.
 - e. should prevail over ethics when there is a conflict between the counselor's values and the client's behavior.
4. From the perspective of principle ethics, a counselor who is counseling a client planning a violent act against another person, and who intervenes to notify the client's family members is:
 - a. sacrificing client autonomy in order to prevent harm and to do good.
 - b. sacrificing fidelity in order to be truthful.
 - c. sacrificing justice in order to be faithful to promises made.
 - d. sacrificing veracity in order to protect the client's anonymity.
 - e. sacrificing beneficence in order to promote fidelity.

5. While principle ethics asks the question “What should I do?,” virtue ethics asks the question:
 - a. “What would an ethical counselor do?”
 - b. “What should counselors who want to follow the law do?”
 - c. “Who should I be?”
 - d. “Who am I?”
 - e. “What does virtue mean?”
6. Virtue ethicists believe that:
 - a. to determine whether a counselor is ethical, each decision the counselor makes must be carefully weighed.
 - b. people exist in connection to and in relationship with one another.
 - c. actions speak louder than words.
 - d. there are no universal moral principles.
 - e. counselors should always be truthful.
7. At their most fundamental level, codes of ethics serve to:
 - a. protect and promote the welfare of the client.
 - b. protect and promote the welfare of the counselor.
 - c. protect and promote the welfare of the profession.
 - d. protect and promote the welfare of the counselor’s agency.
 - e. protect and promote the welfare of the client’s family unit.
8. Counselors who function according to mandatory ethics:
 - a. believe that employers should require specific behaviors of counselors they hire.
 - b. believe that their duty is to comply with basic “must” and “must not” statements in codes of ethics, and nothing more.
 - c. believe counselors should determine what is ethical based on the specific situations in which they find themselves.
 - d. would favor ethical standards that use the word “should,” instead of the word “must.”
 - e. would favor judging the actions of counselors based on the circumstances, rather than on strict rules.
9. When attempting to make an ethical decision, it is recommended that counselors take all of the following steps EXCEPT:
 - a. tune into their feelings.
 - b. involve the client in the decision-making process.
 - c. consider the moral principles.
 - d. consult with an attorney.
 - e. identify desired outcomes.
10. Once counselors have disclosed their legal questions to their immediate supervisors, and have received a response either from the supervisor or from an attorney who is advising them as to the proper course of action,
 - a. it is essential for counselors to seek a second opinion.
 - b. it is essential for counselors to choose and act on their own choice.

- c. it is essential for counselors to follow legal advice given to them, even if they do not agree with it.
 - d. it is essential for counselors to follow legal advice given to them, but only if they agree with it.
 - e. it is essential for counselors to ask the ACA Ethics Committee for an opinion.
11. All of the following are situations in which it is necessary to consult with colleagues EXCEPT:
- a. when counselors face issues that require them to exercise judgment.
 - b. when there are no clear right or wrong answers.
 - c. when deciding whether to respond to a subpoena.
 - d. when it is possible that clinical decisions will be challenged later.
 - e. when they are not certain whether a client might be suicidal.
12. Laws:
- a. always support professional values and behaviors.
 - b. dictate maximum standards of behavior for professionals in a position of trust who provide services to the public.
 - c. are similar to ethics in that they represent ideal standards.
 - d. often conflict with an ethical standard related to a similar issue.
 - e. are agreed upon rules that are set forth by principles allowing people to live together in a society.
13. External forces that can support counselors in their efforts to practice ethically include all of the following EXCEPT:
- a. supervision.
 - b. intentionality.
 - c. consultation.
 - d. codes of ethics.
 - e. continuing education workshops and seminars.
14. The ACA Code of Ethics:
- a. helps to stabilize the profession.
 - b. answers nearly all questions that a counselor might have.
 - c. sets forth ethical responsibilities that never change.
 - d. is the single, universally accepted code of ethics for counselors.
 - e. is updated every two or three years.
15. When a counselor discovers that a client holds values that are dramatically different from the counselor's own values, the counselor should:
- a. try to gently persuade the client to re-examine his or her values.
 - b. respect the client's values, even though the counselor disagrees with them.
 - c. immediately refer the client to another counselor.
 - d. give the client some reading material that will broaden his or her perspective.
 - e. ask the client how he or she would feel if people discriminated against him or her because of values held.

Chapter 2

Professional Identity of Counselors

1. Counselors with a strong professional identity are able to do all of the following EXCEPT:
 - a. describe the services their profession renders to the public.
 - b. articulate the similarities and differences between their profession and other similar groups.
 - c. show pride in belonging to the counseling profession.
 - d. demonstrate that they hold a master's degree from a CACREP-accredited program.
 - e. explain the philosophy that underlies the activities of counselors.
2. A core belief that members of the counseling profession hold concerning helping others with their mental health concerns is:
 - a. it is important to identify the illness presented by clients.
 - b. the goal is to help clients return to the level of functioning enjoyed before the illness occurred.
 - c. remediation is the most appropriate means in dealing with emotional and personal problems.
 - d. prevention and early intervention are the most appropriate means to deal with emotional and personal problems.
 - e. in most cases, giving support is all that is necessary for people to resolve their personal crises.
3. Within the counseling profession, the primary goal of counseling is to:
 - a. help clients achieve wellness.
 - b. cure illnesses of clients.
 - c. identify and treat mental illnesses.
 - d. understand the illnesses with which clients present for counseling.
 - e. help clients understand unresolved emotional issues.
4. Counselors who practice from a developmental perspective:
 - a. focus on the physical development of their clients because physical development has a significant impact on the emotional well-being of clients.
 - b. focus on the intellectual development of their clients because clients must be taught to understand themselves in order to function more effectively.
 - c. see personal development as a difficult goal to attain and requires the help of counselors who understand the human condition.
 - d. view most problems people encounter as natural and normal since all developmental stages of life bring challenges.
 - e. believe that all stages of life traumatize clients and, thus, the counselor's role is to treat the trauma their clients have experienced.
5. Counseling aims to help clients:
 - a. become autonomous and no longer need other people in their lives.
 - b. have a place to go that is comforting and supportive.

MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWERS

Chapter One: Introduction

1. a
2. c
3. c
4. a
5. c
6. b
7. a
8. b
9. d
10. d
11. c
12. e
13. b
14. a
15. b

Chapter Two: Professional Identity of Counselors

1. d
2. d
3. a
4. d
5. e
6. d
7. a
8. e
9. c
10. b
11. a
12. c
13. d
14. e
15. c