

Wisconsin Certified Peer Specialist Code of Ethics

The following principles will guide Certified Peer Specialists in their professional roles and relationships:

1. I understand that my primary responsibility is to help peers understand recovery and achieve their own recovery needs, wants, and goals. I will be guided by the principle of self-determination for each peer.
2. I will conduct myself in a manner that fosters my own recovery and I recognize the many ways in which I may influence peers, and others in the community, as I serve as a role model.
3. I will be open to share with peers and coworkers my stories of hope and recovery and will likewise be able to identify and describe the supports that promote my recovery and resilience.
4. I have a duty to inform peers when first discussing confidentiality that intended serious harm to self or others cannot be kept confidential. I have a duty to accurately inform peers regarding the degree to which information will be shared with other team members, based on my agency policy and job description. I have a duty to inform appropriate staff members immediately about any intended serious harm to self or others or abuse from caregivers.
5. I will never intimidate, threaten, harass, unduly influence, physically force or restrain, verbally abuse, or make unwarranted promises of benefits to the peers I support.
6. I will not practice, condone, facilitate or collaborate in any form of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, disability, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition or state.
7. I will advocate with peers so that individuals may make their own decisions when partnering with professionals.
8. I will never engage in any sexual/intimate activities with peers I support. While a peer is receiving services from me, I will not enter into a relationship or commitment that conflicts with the support needs of the peer.
9. I will keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery and openly share this knowledge with my coworkers and peers. I will refrain from sharing advice or opinions outside my scope of practice with peers.
10. I will utilize supervision and abide by the standards for supervision established by my agency. I will seek supervision to assist me in providing recovery-oriented services to peers.

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11. I will not accept gifts of money or items of significant value from those I serve. I will not loan or give money to peers.
12. I will protect the welfare of all peers by ensuring that my conduct will not constitute physical or psychological abuse, neglect, or exploitation. I will practice with trauma awareness at all times.
13. I will, at all times, respect the rights, dignity, privacy and confidentiality of those I support.
14. As a professional, if I find that my own recovery journey is compromised and interferes with my ability to provide support to my peers, I will engage in my own self-care until such time that I am once again capable of providing professional care.



Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

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