



Child Life Code of Ethics

Certified Child Life Specialists subscribe to a body of ethical principles which are in accordance with the Association of Child Life Professionals' Child Life Mission, Values, and Vision Statements and Operating Principles and which are derived primarily for the benefit and protection of children (unless modified, children refers to infants, children and youth), and families in settings where the potential for damaging stress or trauma exists.

Certified Child Life Specialists recognize that they are ethically responsible to: (1) children; (2) other professionals; (3) staff, students and volunteers who are receiving training and supervision; and (4) themselves, both personally and professionally.

It is understood that ethical behavior should not result from edict but from a personal commitment on the part of the individual as a professional. In any situation, the course of action chosen is expected to be consistent with the ethical principles either stated or implied herein.

All those providing child life services (including specialists, administrators, assistants, interns and students) share as a goal: (1) maximizing the physical and emotional health as well as the social, cognitive and developmental abilities of children, and (2) minimizing the potential stress and trauma that children and their families may experience. These goals are best accomplished by adhering to this code of ethics.

Principle 1 -- Certified Child Life Specialists hold a primary commitment to the psychosocial care of the patient and family and uphold the [mission, vision, values](#), and operating principles of the profession.

Principle 2 -- Certified Child Life Specialists have a duty to maintain objectivity, integrity, and competence, while exhibiting compassion.

Principle 3 -- Certified Child Life Specialists have an obligation to maintain an environment that respects variations in culture, age, gender, race, ethnicity, physical ability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, religious affiliation, veteran status, and socioeconomic status.

Principle 4 -- Certified Child Life Specialists respect the privacy of children and families and maintain confidentiality within the standards and requirements of employers, local governing regulations, or private practice standards.

Principle 5 -- Certified Child Life Specialists demonstrate the competencies of the child life profession by continuous efforts to improve professional services and practices provided in the diverse settings in which they work, and in the community at large.

Principle 6 -- Certified Child Life Specialists provide services within their competencies and make appropriate referrals with due regard for the professional competencies of other members of the health care team and the community within which they work.

Principle 7 -- Certified Child Life Specialists respect the duties, competencies and needs of their professional colleagues and maintain the utmost integrity in all interactions with the institutions or organizations that employ them or in their private practices.

Principle 8 -- Certified Child Life Specialists continually seek knowledge and skills that update and enhance their understanding of all relevant issues affecting the children and families they serve.

Principle 9 -- Certified Child Life Specialists respect the conventions of scholarly inquiry and will recognize their responsibility for ethical practice in research.

Principle 10 -- Certified Child Life Specialists use integrity to assess and amend any personal relationships, social media exchanges, or situations that may interfere with their professional effectiveness or objectivity, or otherwise negatively impact the children and families they serve. Child life professionals ensure the conclusion of their professional role before any personal relationship is permitted to develop with children or the members of families they have served.

Principle 11 -- Certified Child Life Specialists recognize that financial gain should never take precedence over the mission, vision, values, and operating principles of the profession.

Principle 12 -- Certified Child Life Specialists accountable for the supervision and training of others (e.g., staff, students, volunteers) assume responsibility for teaching ethical professional values and providing optimal learning experiences.

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