

Ethics Jeopardy

With Your Host:

Darius Campinha-Bacote, PsyD, HSP

1

Failure to Report	Confidentiality	Professional Boundaries	Record Keeping	Dual Relationship	Unprofessional Conduct	Billing	Supervision
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500

2

WHOOPS!



3


100

- Jane has completed 16 therapy sessions with Suzy, a 32-year-old mother of five. Over the course of the past eight sessions Suzy alluded to becoming "more aggressive" in her punishments of her children. She openly disclosed that it was related to stress at work. Although there have been great strides in regards to stress management, and adopting health coping strategies, in the most recent session, Suzy disclosed "hurting [her] daughter to the point where she can't stand anymore, and fears that [she] has gone too far." Jane has compassion for Suzy, and has seen how much she has grown therapeutically, and decides not to contact CPS.

4

100
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to report a case of abuse.
 - 2-year suspension



5


200

- Samantha has been working with her in-home therapy client, 43-year-old Barry, for the past three years, and, over the course of treatment, has noticed small burn marks on some of the children. She tells herself that these "could have happened any time," but is worried that the children's father is the culprit. She has never asked the family regarding the suspected abuse, believes that things are "okay," and continues with therapy without addressing this matter.

6

200
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to report the child abuse of a minor client to Child Protective Services (CPS).
 - Reprimand



7

300

- Jody is an LPC and has been seeing a 38-year-old woman, Jill, who has had prior involvement with CPS. Jill endorsed being addicted to drugs, and neglecting her children in the past. She is in therapy currently to address these aforementioned issues. Jody has been slightly over-charging Jill since Jill stated that she didn't want anyone to know she was in therapy and opted not to go through her insurance company. Jill decided that she no longer wanted therapy and told Jody she wanted to terminate. Due to the high amount Jill has been paying, Jody didn't want to lose Jill as a client, and proceeded to threaten Jill that she would tell CPS that she was using again and severely neglecting her children if she terminated services.


8

- Jill, thinking that Jody wouldn't follow through with the threat, decided to terminate services. Jody then contacted CPS and reported Jill for substance abuse and neglect of her children. Jill contacts both the board and files a formal lawsuit against Jody. Jill completed a drug test showing no recent drug use within the last three months and an investigation with the children showed no signs of neglect or abuse. Upon questioning by the board, Jody heavily denies that it was a false report and explains she had numerous reasons to believe the children were at risk.

9

300
Correct Answer

- Related to false reporting.
 - Revocation
 - Pay court costs for the wrongfully accused
 - State felony or be liable to the state for a civil penalty of \$1000



10


400

- Amanda's client, Bart, leaves his two children (ages three and four) unattended at the house while he attends therapy sessions. Amanda is aware that Bart has children, but only recently found out that he leaves them at home unattended. She discussed the importance of appropriate child care with Bart, however Bart continues to leave his children unattended. Hoping not to disrupt the therapeutic gains Bart has made, and possibly lose a client, Amanda does nothing further.

11

400
Correct Answer

- Failure to report suspected abuse or neglect of client's children.
 - Reprimand



12

500 (DAILY DOUBLE)

- You receive a call from a 47-year-old single male, named Jim, who is seeking services for depression. During the phone call, Jim expresses concerns regarding privacy and requested assurance that sessions would be kept confidential. When Jim comes for his first session, he readdresses the same concerns and seeks the assurances provided before. Jim then discloses that his depression is related to the passing of his mother eight years prior, in that she had been struggling with Alzheimer's disease and severe respiratory issues for a long period of time. Due to his mother's declining health, he moves in with her and his father, and due to her "suffering greatly," out of compassion, Jim decided to give her an excessive dose of her sleeping and pain pills which caused her to pass away in her sleep. Due to Jim's mother known quality of health, and the treating doctor stating that "it would only be a matter of time," there were no questions asked regarding her death.

13

500

- Jim goes on to explain that his father has declined swiftly since the passing of his partner and states "he is in need of total care and is suffering greatly." Jim reveals that he recently had a conversation with his father where his father noted that he too wants to "go peacefully" like his partner. Jim states that he feels guilty regarding the actions he took with his mother, but maintains that he believes he made the right decision. He also disclosed that he does not plan to "do anything to [his] father." Jim hopes to work through the conflicting feelings that he currently has about the situation, but continues to address his concerns regarding confidentiality and wants reassurance that nothing bad will happen to him if he talks about this.

14

500 Correct Answer

- Failure to report the suspected potential abuse of an elderly individual.
 - No consequence, no clear intent to harm



15


100

- Beverly received a release of information (ROI) by an agency to release medical records on behalf of her 28-year-old client, Paisley. Beverly is extremely busy with a caseload of 48 clients, and forgets to release medical records. As a result, the board is contacted.

16

100
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to follow the rules of confidentiality regarding the release of mental health records.
 - Reprimand



17


200

- Marty has been seeing his 12-year-old client, Ashely, for five years. Ashley has made substantial headway in therapy, but is now slated to move to a new school. Ashley's father requests all treatment records to pass on to the school psychologist, and writes Marty a letter detailing why he needs the documents. Marty was first unsure as to whether or not he wanted to release the records, and decided that he "wanted to think about it a little more." Several months go by and he never

18

200
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to timely release confidential treatment records to the father of a client after the father of client submitted a written request.
 - 6-month suspension



19


300

- Pam has been in treatment with 16-year-old Josh for four years. Over the course of the past several sessions she has allowed Josh's biological father, Jerry, sit in on therapy sessions so that issues discussed can be integrated at the home. Josh's estranged mother heard that her ex-partner (Jerry) is participating in therapy sessions with her son, and decides to call the board.

20

300
Correct Answer

- Related to allowing a client to be in counseling sessions with his father without the permission of the client's mother.
 - 1-year suspension



21


400

- Erica is treating 78-year-old Manny for the past eight years. Concerned regarding his declining physical health, Manny’s grandson, Anthony, provides a written request for records to see “what the hell is going on in those sessions.” Erica believes that Manny is cognitively able to make decisions for himself, and asks him if she should release records. Manny discloses that he “hates that little brat Anthony,” and does not want records to be released. Anthony, after becoming enraged, contacts the board.

22

400
Correct Answer

- None, as client has the right to deny record release.



23


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- Beverly receives a release of information (ROI) from an agency regarding her 13-year-old client, Patricia, that he is seeing in therapy. Having been admonished in the past for not releasing her records in a timely manner, she quickly releases the information to the requesting agency.

24

500
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to comply with the Texas Health and Safety Code concerning releasing confidential information, without the written consent of the client’s mother.
 - 1-year suspension



25


100

- In an effort to create increased clientele in her local community, Beth, a LPC, created signs purporting that she is “the best therapist since sliced bread.” She also claimed to “cure people of any psychological disorders in three weeks or less!!” A fellow LPC in the same community contacts the board.

26

100
Correct Answer

- Related to making false, misleading, deceptive and fraudulent claims
 - 6-month suspension



27


200

- Jeff begins treating 33-year-old Lisa for agoraphobia. Being what he self-describes as a “cutting-edge therapist,” Jeff begins to have sessions in situations that are anxiety provoking for Lisa. One session is held in a restaurant to simulate a mock date. Following the mock date, Jeff walks Lisa to her door and kisses her on the cheek. Lisa then asks Jeff to come inside her residence, where Jeff and Lisa engage in consensual sex. Weeks later, Lisa felt like she was taken advantage of, and decides to contact the board.

28

200
Correct Answer

- Sexual contact with client and failure to maintain professional boundaries.
 - 2-year suspension



29


300

- Timothy, a 52-year-old LPC has been divorced and “lonely” for the past six years. He has been treating 49-year-old Sarah for the past six months in therapy related to depression. During their most recent session, Timothy tells Sarah to take off her clothes in therapy, as he learned a new technique which will help her become “more in tune with your self-worth and self-esteem.” Sarah reluctantly agrees. This occurs for several sessions, with Timothy eventually engaging in intercourse with Sarah on multiple occasions. Sarah breaks down to a co-worker one day, who immediately calls the board.

30

300
Correct Answer

- Sexual Misconduct.
 - Revocation



31


400

- Maggie, a LPC, always wanted to be a psychologist, but “dreaded going to school for so damn long.” She devised (and later executes) a plan in which she called herself Dr. Maggie, and constructed false documents indicating the doctoral school she attended. After promoting her doctoral status she receives an influx of new clients and begins treating them. One client later finds out that Maggie had been falsifying information, and contacts the board.

32

400
Correct Answer

- Related to making false, misleading or deceptive statements regarding qualifications, training and education/ falsifying a government record.
 - Revocation



33


500

- Matthew has been working with 48-year-old Jennifer for over two years in therapy. Their relationship has become casual, to the point where Jennifer asked Matthew with help fixing several old tractors in her yard. Knowing that Jennifer is a licensed cosmetologist, he asks her to “fix the hair of all of [his] children and [his] partner” in exchange for services. Jennifer excitedly agrees.

34

500
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to set professional boundaries, entering into a dual relationship with her client and exchanging monies over \$50 with the client.
 - 3-year suspension



35


100

- Tamara is “overworked and underpaid” at her job at “Psych Services for All.” In fear of losing her job, she has been secretly taking client files home so that she can complete her work in a timely manner. Her boss, Jethro, takes notice, and reprimands Tamara, telling her that she needs to keep client files in the office. Tamara begrudgingly agrees, but three weeks later she continues to bring work home. In response, Tamara is fired, and Jethro contacts the board.

36

100
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to keep client records secure, complete and confidential by taking the files home and failure to return files to office, when requested.
 - 1-year suspension



37


200

- Bill keeps copious notes of all of his clients, and details each word that his clients report. His records are immaculate, and have always been throughout his 25-year career. The board notifies Bill of a request of several of his records, however Bill does not believe that he should release them at all. He fails to respond to the letter from the board, and fails to send necessary documentation.

38

200
Correct Answer

- Failure to release records or to respond to a request for records.
 - Reprimand



39


300

- Terry is currently working with an 11-year-old, Mary, who has symptoms consistent with ADHD. Mary's maternal grandparents (whom have custody of Mary) request Terry's records so that Mary can be approved for an IEP at her school. Terry stated that she does not want to release information to the school on grounds that they "need to provide their own testing, and use their own information." In response, Mary's maternal grandparents contact the board.

40

300
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to release confidential treatment records to the grandparents of minor child.
 - Reprimand



41


400

- Monty receives notification via mail from his client, 22-year-old Stella, that she needs her records for "an important job interview." Monty believes that it is "absolutely preposterous" that an agency would need treatment records, so he does not respond to the request.

42

400
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to respond to a written request for copies of client records.
 - 1-year suspension



43


500

- Bethany, a LPC who has been working in the field for nearly 40-years is asked by the police for the records of a client she saw 32-years earlier. Apparently, there has been a cold-case file in which her client was the prime suspect, and the police need all information. A subpoena is signed, and Bethany is ordered to release the documents. She indicates that she has destroyed the documents. The police threaten to contact the board.

44

500
Correct Answer

- None, as records do not need to be kept for longer than 10-years.



45


100

- Brian has been having an ongoing consensual sexual relationship with his client, 18-year-old Carey. He explained to her earlier in therapy that he "holds all the power, and she needs to do whatever [he] says." She acquiesces, but does consent to many of the things (usually sexual in nature) that he asks of her. Brian receives a request from the board for information regarding a complaint from his client's mother-in-law regarding his relationship with Carey. He agrees to meet with an investigator from the board, and intentionally misrepresents facts of the case, later stating that Carey's mother-in-law is a "controlling borderline." LPC board notes in their findings the true inappropriate nature of Brian's relationship with Carey, him being intentionally misleading, and that he billed for counseling services that were never rendered.

46

100
Correct Answer

- Failure to set and maintain professional boundaries by entering a dual relationship with a client, and by engaging in sexual exploitation of a client, failure to respond to a board request for information regarding a complaint, misrepresented facts to a Department investigator and made false accusations against complainant, and billed for counseling services that were not rendered.
 - Revocation



47


200

- Brandon has been treating 12-year-old Obah for the past several months. A tragic set of events occur which lead to the death of Obah. Obah's mother reaches out to Brandon, and asks if he would attend the funeral. Brandon does not think twice about it, and attends the ceremony.

48

200
Correct Answer

- None



49

300 (DAILY DOUBLE)

- Eric holds group therapy session with nine of his clients weekly for the past several years. Over the course of the past several weeks he notices that several members of the group frequent a Waffle House that he goes to right before group. He has been offered to join them. Not wanting to be rude, Eric begins meeting privately with several members of the group and Eric discloses several of his failed relationships. The "Waffle House Group (WHG)," as they call themselves, provide Eric with helpful interventions so that he can have "more healthy relationships."


50

- Noticing an inappropriate amount of collusion between Eric and members of the WHG, several group members (who were not a part of the WHG) contact the board. Eric receives a call from an investigator from the board, asking that "since [he] is already screwed, [he] won't respond." He brings this up with the WHG, and they agree with this decision.

51

300
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to set and maintain professional boundaries by engaging in a dual relationship with clients and failure to cooperate with the Board by failure to respond to a Department investigator; failure to furnish documents and information requested by the Board.
 - 2-year suspension



52


400

- Stacy, a seasoned LPC, was treating 21-year-old Stark for the past several years. They both live in a rural area, and frequently see each other in common places such as the local grocery stores and the local mall. Over the course of treatment, Stark has struggled with "stage fright," and, agreeing to Stacy's suggestion, has entered into a competition at the local talent show. After much discussion, Stacy agrees to attend the talent show, and roots for Stark (who wins the competition).

53

400
Correct Answer

- None



54


500

- Chelsey has been treating Adrian for the past six years. Over the course of the past two years, their relationship has become more casual, in that Chelsey, knowing that Adrian has been going through financial difficulty, has held off on charging him for several sessions. To recoup the money she has lost, Chelsey bills the insurance for one additional session each week. Additionally, Chelsey began watching Adrian’s children while he goes to work so that she can “help out as much as possible,” something she was taught in graduate school.

55

500
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to set and maintain professional boundaries by entering into a dual relationship and billing clients for services not rendered.
 - Reprimand



56


100

- Amy, a dedicated LPC, has recently fallen upon rough times. To support herself and her family, she begins selling “elbows” of cocaine when she is not treating clients. She subsequently gets tracked by the DEA, which leads to multiple felony conviction, and imprisonment. She does not notify the board of her imprisonment, and upon her release, she begins seeing her clients “as if nothing happened.” She believes it was a “blessing” to be imprisoned, as she now can empathize better with several of her clients who “did hard time.”

57

100
Correct Answer

- Related to felony imprisonment
 - Revocation



58


200

- Art is an LPC who specializes in couples therapy. During a recent therapy session, Art instructs one partner to “verbally assault” the other while in session. This consisted of shouting insults regarding past sexual abuse such as “you deserved everything that happened to you!” The goal of therapy was to help the client “build a tougher outer shell.” The partner who was shouted at feels worse at the end of the session, and clearly articulates this to Art. Art shrugs and says, “see you next week.” This partner decides to contact the board.

59

200
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to take reasonable precautions to protect a client from emotional harm.
 - 1-year suspension



60


300

- Stephanie, after suffering with symptoms consistent with bronchitis, takes several "swigs" from her prescribed bottle of cough syrup prior to going into work. This amount far exceeds the recommended dosage, however she "wanted to get better faster." Although her first clients appear not to notice anything, she becomes visibly lethargic and begins slurring her words during the sessions of her clients later in the day. One client, who had been recently abused by an individual who used controlled substances, quickly noticed signs of substance abuse, and contacts the board immediately.

61

300
Correct Answer

- Related to engaging in unprofessional conduct by reporting to work under the influence of a controlled substance.
 - 2-year suspension



62


400

- Bobby is treating a current client who is involved in a legal proceeding. The client informs Bobby that a locally known LPC involved in the case released confidential information to the attorney without a signed release or court order. After reviewing the information, it is clear to Bobby that the LPC did indeed breach confidentiality. Bobby knows the LPC personally, but does not have a strong relationship with him. Bobby decides to not say anything as he is unsure how the fellow LPC would react and doesn't believe that it is his role to say anything.

63

400
Correct Answer

- Finding out that another psychologist released confidential information without a release
 - Reprimand



64


500

- Larry is an LPC licensed in both Texas and Alabama. Although his home office is located in Texas, while on vacation in Alabama, he conducts a therapy session with a family. During a heated debate with one of the uncles present at the therapy session, Larry exclaims that he "used to stab people like you back in [his] day." Larry later states that he was "purposefully being dramatic so that [he] can promote change within the family unit." The uncle, understandably worried regarding this comment, decides not to contact the police, but rather the Alabama State Board. The Alabama State Board contacts the Texas State Board.

65

500
Correct Answer

- Related to engaging in unethical conduct when the Alabama State Board of Examiners in Counseling placed you on probation for violations of the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice governing Professional Counselors in Alabama.
 - 6-month suspension



66


100

- Trent runs a busy private practice in a small community. His practice becomes so busy that he begins throwing out files that have been closed for the past two years or later. He stated to his friend that "there is not enough space for all [his] clients' paperwork in [his] file folder, and [he] doesn't want to buy a new one...and no one will ever find out." The board did, in fact, find out, and an investigator requests to see all documents from the practice. Trent, knowing that he has been billing for Medicaid services that have not been rendered so that he can buy his partner the new car that she wanted, denies the board access to his files.

67

100
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to keep and maintain accurate client records for a minimum period of five years and billing the Texas Medicaid Program for services that were not rendered and failure to cooperate with the Board by failing to respond to a department investigator regarding a request for documents and information.
 - Revocation



68


200

- Angie has been billing the family members of the Medicaid clients that she has been seeing. She tells herself since her clients talk about their family members so much, "it is just the same as if they were here." During an audit of Angie's practice, Medicaid finds her fraudulent, and contacts the board. Angie receives several voicemails and letters from the board, however she does not respond.

69

200
Correct Answer

- Related to Medicaid fraud, improper billing, and failure to cooperate with the board.
 - Revocation



70


300

- Constantine, just being recently credentialed by BCBS, has found that they pay out the most for services rendered. She speaks to her clients, and they come to agreement that she will bill two additional sessions per week. Her clients agree as it "helps them meet their deductible quickly." BCBS, catching wind of what Constantine has been doing, files charges, which subsequently lead to a felony conviction. Constantine swears that she will "be more honest in the future," and decides not to report the felony to the board. Her rationale is that she "won't be able to help anyone if [she] is no longer licensed."

71

300
Correct Answer

- Billing services not rendered, led to conviction of a felony, and didn't report to the board
 - 3-year suspension



72


400

- Bertha has been working at an agency for the past eight years, and disclosed to her partner that she is "burnt out." To appease her agency, Bertha bills Medicaid for three sessions every Friday, although she does not go to work, and uses that time for self-care. Bertha justifies her actions by stating that her "boss said that [she] needed to take it easy and utilize more self-care practices...[she] is just following orders."

73

400
Correct Answer

- Billing Medicaid for services not rendered
 - 2-year suspension



74


500

- Joe has been in private practice as a LPC for a little over a year. It is a new year and a client he is seeing starts over on their insurance amount for co-pay. Joe forgets that this happens at the beginning of the year and continues to charge the same amount from the end of the year (which is lower). When Joe goes to bill for the session, he realizes that he undercharged the client but reported to the insurance company that they paid their co-pay for services. Joe decides to let the client know next time he sees him that the co-pay started over and they will need to begin paying the new price, but does not inform the insurance company of his mistake.

75

500
Correct Answer

- Related to misinforming the insurance company about amount paid by client
 - 1-year suspension



76


100

- Ted, after amassing a substantial practice, has been told that he “should be a supervisor.” Instead of pursuing the coveted LPC-S distinction, he simply begins supervising LPC-I’s. He justifies this decision by stating that he “has never received any negative feedback about [his] supervisory skills, and doesn’t need that damn LPC-S.”

77

100
Correct Answer

- Supervising interns without a license
 - \$900 Administrative Penalty



78


200

- Jack, an eager LPC-I begins accruing hours without completing all the necessary paperwork. Most notably, Jack neglected to have his supervisor sign the supervisory agreement. During an audit of the practice where he is employed, the board is made aware that a supervisory agreement was never signed.

79

200
Correct Answer

- Did not complete supervisory agreement
 - \$500 Administrative Penalty



80


300

- Anne, a LPC-I who is aware that she needs to have a board approved supervisor, decided to receive supervision from her ex-partner's brother-in law (Mark) through Skype who received his degree in Malaysia. Admittedly, Mark provides great insight to Anne, and she is able to better understand how to show empathy to her clients. A board complaint is initiated once a client asks to speak to Anne's supervisor.

81

300
Correct Answer

- Practicing without approval from board approved supervisor
 - 1-year Suspension



82


400

- Cassidy, and LPC-S, has several LPC-I's working under her. Due to her busy schedule, she neglected to keep all the necessary supervisory paperwork for each intern. As a result, several interns are unable to procure their licensure. Two interns contact the board.

83

400
Correct Answer

- Related to failure to maintain appropriate Supervisory documentation.
 - \$750 Administrative Penalty
-



84


500

- Melanie, a hardworking LPC-S, has helped several hundred LPC-I's become fully licensed. After going out of the country to aid in bringing clean drinking water to a small village in northeast Iraq, she returns to the states and neglects to renew her license. She continues to sign off and supervise interns.

85

500
Correct Answer

- Related to providing supervision as a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor, when supervisor status had expired.
 - Reprimand



86