



A Substantive Discussion of the Revised APA Ethics Code

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APA Convention August 7-9, 2025

URL AND QR CODE FOR THE ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLOGISTS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

URL for the *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*:
<https://www.apa.org/ethics/code>

Scan the QR Code Below to Open the *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*



APA Convention August 7-9, 2025



COMPONENTS OF THE CODES

Current Code

- Introduction and Applicability
- Preamble
- 5 Principles
- 10 Standards sections

Current Draft

- Introduction
- 8 Principles
- Connection of Principles to Standards
- 10 Standards sections

PRINCIPLES

Current Code

**Beneficence
and
Nonmaleficence**

**Fidelity and
Responsibility**

Integrity

**Respect for
People's Rights
and Dignity**

Justice

Revised Draft

Beneficence

Nonmaleficence

**Human and Civil
Rights**

**Integrity and
Trustworthiness**

**Recognition of
Social Systems
and the Natural
Environment**

**Respect for
Persons and
Peoples***

**Scientific
Mindedness**

**Justice and
Social Justice**

STANDARD SECTIONS IN DRAFT

Competence

**Testing,
Assessment
and Evaluation**

**Relationship
with the Public**

**Education,
Training and
Supervision**

**Research,
Publication
and Scientific
Integrity**

**Informed
Consent**

**Professional
Responsibility**

**Confidentiality
and Privacy**

**Psychological
Services**

Technology

COMMENTS

- 879 individuals
- 66 groups
- 2654 comments + many others
 - General comments
 - Connecting section
 - Specific principles
 - Specific standards



CATEGORIES & APPROXIMATE NUMBER

General Comments (375)

Introduction (50)

Principles (275)

Relationship b/t Principles & Standards (60)

Competence (125)

Professional Responsibility (190)

Relationship w/ the Public (120)

Informed Consent (115)

Confidentiality & Privacy (80)

Technology (125)

Research, Publication, and Scientific Integrity (210)

Education, Training, and Supervision (105)

Psychological Services (125)

Testing, Assessment, and Evaluation (700)

DESIGNATIONS

Independent Practice (562)

Academia (227)

Integrative Health Care/Medical (215)

Government (113)

Legal & Forensic Settings (94)

Public (60)

Retired (59)

Research Settings (58)

Private Industry (39)

Non-profit (25)

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LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

- **Clients/patients** are those with whom psychologists contract for services and also receive psychological services
- **Recipients of Services** are not contractors of the services but those who receive Ψ services. Minors; employees for third-party client
- **Third-party clients** are those with whom psychologists contract for psychological services but not recipients of services. School systems; court systems; businesses
- **Psychological services** are professional services psychologists offer to the public inclusive of individuals, groups, organizations, communities, systems; includes TAE



RELATIONSHIP W/ THE PUBLIC

- **Public Presentations**
 - When gAI is used in any professional work...its use must be accurately and adequately disclosed to the extent it contributed substantively to the work....
- **Public Statements Regarding Public Figures**
 - Professional knowledge or personal opinions
- **Accountability to the Public**
 - ...keep commitments; provide community representatives with relevant reports & documents



INFORMED CONSENT

- **Elements of Informed Consent**
 - All 4 together (general + Ψ services + research + TAE)
- **Informed Consent in Research**
 - When psychologists engage in research with groups, communities, systems, and other entities...they seek permission from identified leaders or organizational authorities to ensure....



CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY

- **Integrated and Interdisciplinary Settings**
- **Confidentiality and Electronic Transmissions**
 - Psychologists who recommend...digital therapeutics...devices provide reasonably known information concerning the limits to confidentiality, including possible access by third parties



TECHNOLOGY

- **Technological Competencies** (separate section)
 - Psychologists inform themselves about the limitations, risks, and benefits...and communicate this information....
- **Use of Technologies**
 - When AI is used...psychologists are responsible for the content, such as findings, recommendations, and evaluative statements

TECHNOLOGY: SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media and Online Platforms

- Psychologists clearly distinguish between personal and professional communications when using social media and do not make social media postings that would negatively impact their professional work
- Psychologists develop and share their explicit media policies (e.g., COI, IC, limits of confidentiality) with their clients/patients/recipients/third-party clients....



RESEARCH, PUBLICATION, & SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

- **Diversity Factors in Conducting Research**
- **Digital Health Research**
- **Data Sharing for Verification and Secondary Use**
- **International Research**
- **Publication Credit**



EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SUPERVISION

- **Supervision of Students and Trainees**
- **Accuracy in Teaching and Training**
 - [Instructors] select course materials that are current and inclusive of psychological information and research and select activities that are appropriate for the goals of the course
- **Diversity within Educational Practice**
 - Psychologists use reasonable care in selecting course/training materials that reflect the diversity of human experience and culture. They critically evaluate...materials...to avoid the perpetuation of stereotypes, prejudice, or systematic oppression of individuals, groups, communities, or people



PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

- **Interdisciplinary Services**
 - Termination & continued care
- **Sexual Conduct and Sexualized Relationships**
 - Ψ health services vs. non health services



TESTING, ASSESSMENT, AND EVALUATION

- **Release of Test Data**
- **Third-Party Observation**
 - Potential effects on results, conclusions...efforts to mitigate likely adverse effects...minimize breaches of test security due to presence (agreements/ protective orders)

ECTF REVIEW PROCESS

Review and Revise
based on Public
Comment



Ethics Committee
and OGC Review and
any additional
revisions



Possible additional
Public Comment
period(s)

FINAL VERSION TO
ETHICS COMMITTEE

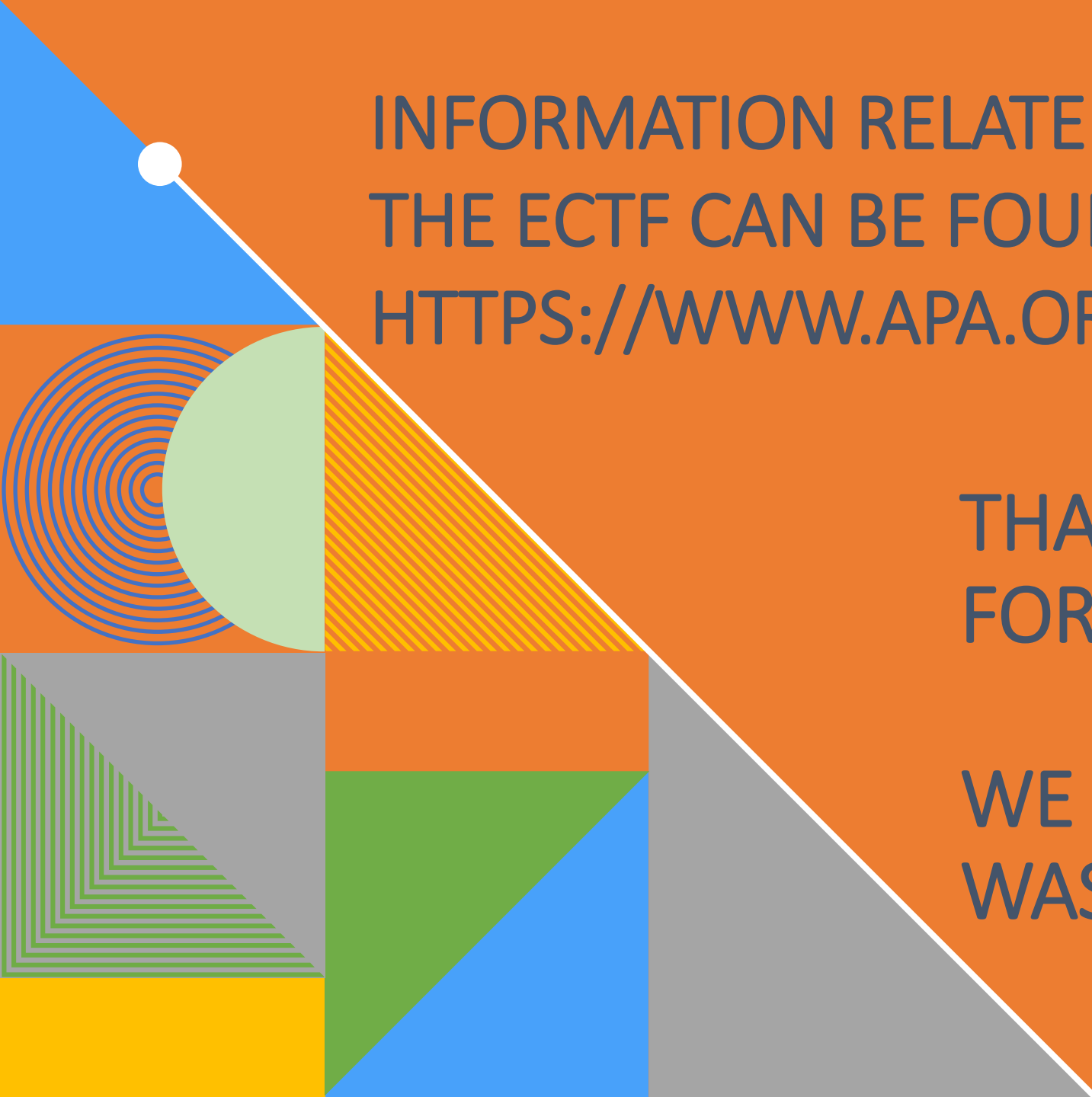


ETHICS COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDS APA
BOARD AND COUNCIL
ADOPT



QUESTIONS?

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INFORMATION RELATED TO
THE ECTF CAN BE FOUND AT
[HTTPS://WWW.APA.ORG/ETHICS/TASK-FORCE](https://www.apa.org/ethics/task-force)

THANK YOU
FOR ATTENDING APA 2025!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN
WASHINGTON, DC IN 2026

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