

**CODE OF ETHICS
CALIFORNIA SPEECH-LANGUAGE HEARING ASSOCIATION**

Last Revised January 2003

Preamble

As stated in the *Preamble* of the *Code of Ethics* of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), the preservation of the highest standards of integrity and ethical principles is vital to the responsible discharge of obligations in the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology (ASHA, 2001). In order to stress the importance of this fundamental rule, the California Speech-Language Hearing Association, hereinafter referred to as “CSHA,” supports and promulgates this fundamental rule, and considers it vital to members of CSHA.

The ASHA Code of Ethics sets forth four fundamental ethical principles that are described as “Principles of Ethics, aspirational and inspirational, (that) form the underlying moral basis for the Code.” CSHA unconditionally supports the four major “Principles of Ethics” set forth below, as they relate to the conduct of research and scholarly activities as well as to the responsibility to persons served, the public, and to the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology. CSHA, therefore, requires that members of the Association observe these principles as affirmative obligations under all conditions of professional activity.

Principles

Principle of Ethics I

Individuals shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve professionally or participants in research and scholarly activities

Principle of Ethics II

Individuals shall honor their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of professional competence.

Principle of Ethics III

Individuals shall honor their responsibility to the public by promoting public understanding of the professions and by supporting the development of services designed to fulfill the unmet needs of the public, and by providing accurate information in all communications involving any aspect of the professions.

Principles of Ethics IV

Individuals shall honor their responsibilities to the professions and their relationships with colleagues, students, and members of allied professions. Individuals shall uphold the dignity and autonomy of the professions, maintain harmonious interprofessional relationships and accept the professions’ self-imposed standards.

For each of the above principles, the ASHA Code goes on to describe “Rules of Ethics” that are specific statements of minimally acceptable professional conduct or of prohibitions as they apply to each of these four principles. Since these “Rules of Ethics” are clearly outlined in the ASHA Code of Ethics, CSHA members are referred to the ASHA Code of Ethics for the specific statements. While CSHA supports and promulgates many of these rules, CSHA intends that the tenets of these ASHA “ethical rules” apply to all CSHA members regardless of the type of license, credential or professional certification a member may hold.

In other words, the provisions specified in the ASHA rules are not limited to or restricted to members and non-members of ASHA who hold a certificate of clinical competence. Therefore, all CSHA members are required to abide by these principles.

Enforcement

Complaints received by CSHA, written or verbal, may come from professionals who may be members or non-members of CSHA, or from consumers of our services. If the complaint involves a violation of California law, the individual making the complaint will be referred to the California Department of Consumer Affairs’ Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Licensing Board (SLPAB) that has specific procedures for processing complaints as well as informal and formal actions that may be taken. If the complaint involves a violation of the ASHA Code of Ethics or the Code of Ethics of another professional organization that provides certification for its members, and the subject of the complaint is an ASHA member, a member of the Audiology Association of America (AAA) or any other appropriate professional organization, the individual making the complaint will be referred to the Board of Ethics of that association. If formal action is taken by one of these regulating bodies and the individual involved is a CSHA member, CSHA will review such action for possible comment, censure, reprimand and/or membership revocation.

American Speech-Language Hearing Association (2001, December 26), Code of Ethics (revised). *ASHA Leader*, vol. 6(23), p. 2.

Resources: Ethical and/or licensing complaints

CA Licensing complaints: <http://www.slpab.ca.gov>

ASHA: <http://www.asha.org>

ASHA Statement of Practices and Procedures of the Board of Ethics:
<http://www.professional.asha.org/resources/deskref/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=13518>
Effective February 8, 1998; revised 1993; revised 1997; revised 1998; revised 2001

ASHA Ethics in Research and Professional Practice
<http://www.professional.asha.org/resources/deskref/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=13531>
1982; revised 2001

ASHA - How to File an Ethics Complaint
http://www.professional.asha.org/resources/ethics/complaint_procedures.cfm

AAA <http://www.audiology.org>

AAA Eligibility Requirements for Board Certification
<http://www.audiology.org/professional/aba/eligibility>