



Everyday Ethics: Navigating the Mess



Why Ethics Matter

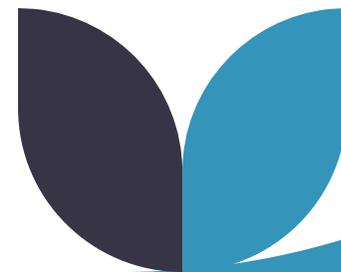
Protects clients and communities

Protects you legally and professionally

Builds trust and credibility

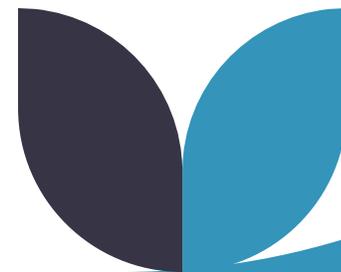
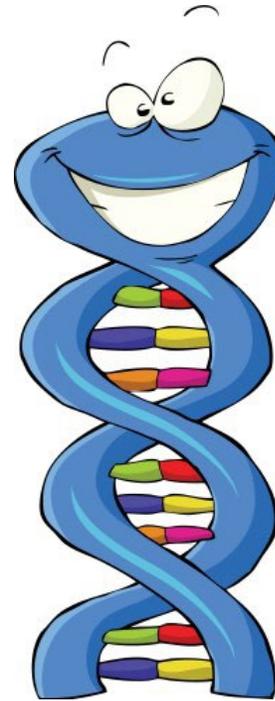
Maintains professional standards

Protects our sanity



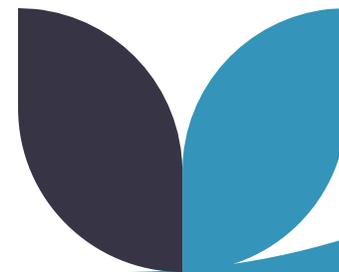
Our Shared DNA

- Do no harm
- Autonomy and dignity
- Justice and fairness
- Beneficence (doing good)
- Professional integrity



Our Rulebooks

- BACB Professional and Ethical Compliance Code
- NASW Code of Ethics
- APA Code of Conduct
- CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) Ethics Standards
- INABC Code of Ethics



Where the Rules Get Fuzzy



- Accepting gifts (the banana bread dilemma)
- Being asked to provide “just a little counseling”
- Dual relationships in small communities
- Documentation shortcuts vs. Medicaid fraud
- Managing professional boundaries with staff/families

Ethics MythBusters

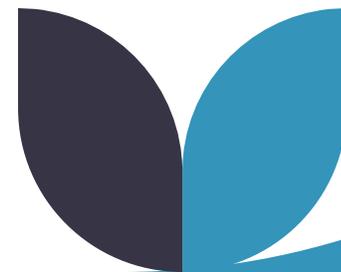
“If it’s not in the code, it’s fine.”

“If my supervisor said it’s okay, it must be ethical.”

“It’s only unethical if I get caught.”

“Self-care has nothing to do with ethics.”

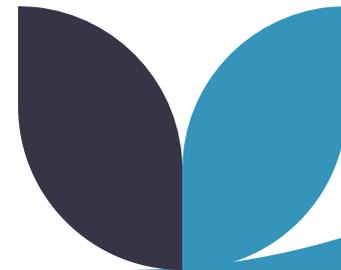
“Small favors don’t count.”



The Price of an Oops

Levels of cost:

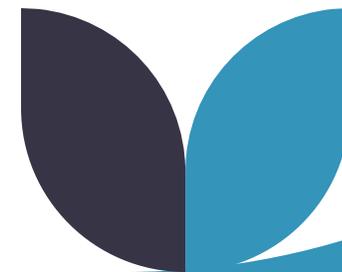
- Personal → guilt, burnout, job loss
- Professional → licensure issues, Medicaid sanctions
- Client → harm, loss of trust, poorer outcomes
- Systemic → mistrust in waiver, reduced services



The Little Stuff Matters

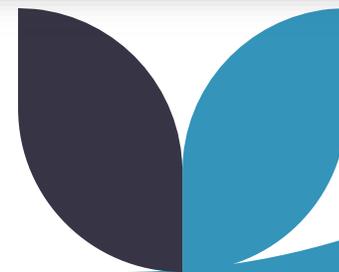
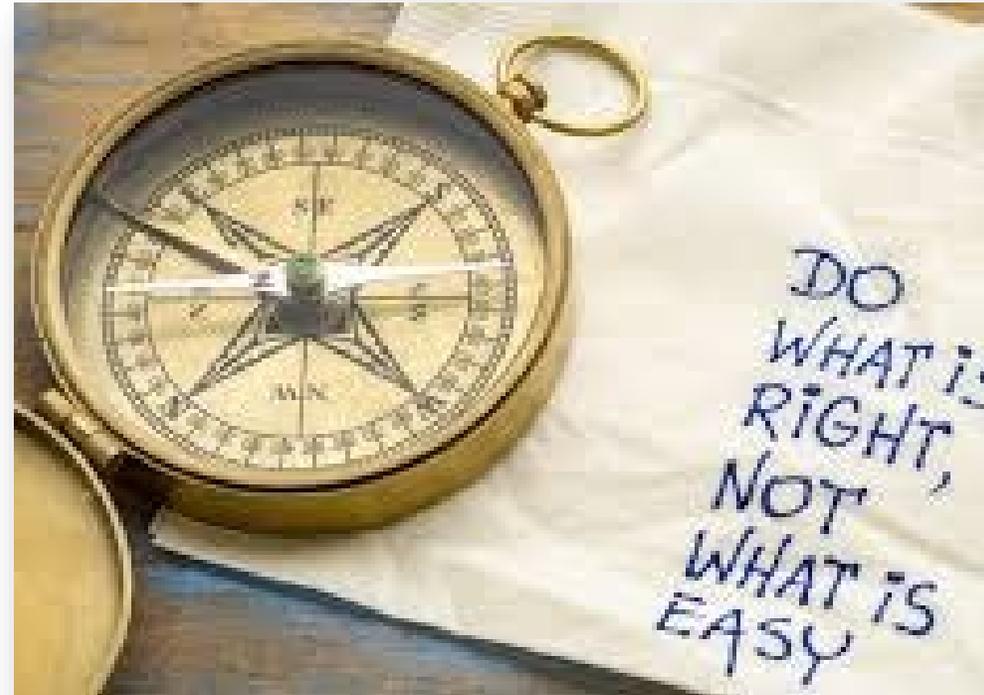


- Returning phone calls promptly
- Respecting client privacy in public
- Not cutting corners on documentation
- Advocating when no one is watching



Your Ethical GPS

- Who does this benefit?
- Would I be comfortable explaining this to a Medicaid auditor?
- Would I be okay seeing this on the front page of the Indy Star?
- What does my gut say?



Ethics: It's Not About Perfection



- We will make mistakes.
- The goal is transparency, reflection, and repair.
- We're stronger as a community when we consult each other.

Ethical Showdown!

Kahoot!

