# Integrating Religion and Spirituality into Psychotherapy: Ethical and Practice Considerations

Religion and spirituality are important dimensions of most individuals' lives. Yet, many mental health clinicians do not receive education and training focused on how to address these issues, when appropriate, with their clients. This webinar provides information on the roles of spirituality and religion in many clients' lives, how to address our own biases about them and how our own beliefs may impact how we view and address them, how to appropriately assess each client's treatment needs to include religious and spiritual issues and concerns, and how to tap into clients' beliefs, practices, and faith communities as sources of strength that may enhance the professional services we provide. Ethics issues, challenges, and dilemmas are addressed, and an ethical decision-making model is shared and clinical examples are provided and discussed to illustrate its application. Recommendations for ethical and clinically effective practice are provided.

Target Audience

Psychologists Therapists

Social Workers Psychiatrists

Counselors Nurses Course level: Intermediate

#### Learning Objectives At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

- Describe the roles spirituality and religion may play in our clients' lives.
- Describe the ethical dilemmas that frequently arise when integrating religion and spirituality into psychotherapy.
- Describe the steps to take when faced with an ethical dilemma regarding addressing spiritual or religious matters with clients.
- Explain the ethics pitfalls relevant to integrating various religious or spiritual interventions into psychotherapy.
- Explain the role of consultation when treating religious clients.

### Seminar Schedule

The webinar outline is attached. See the Live Webinar page for the start and end times.

# Outline

Begin 11 AM ET Religion vs. Spirituality Historical overview Relevance to today's clients Training issues Reasons to address these issues with clients Risks of overlooking these issues Potential pitfalls Break 12:30-12:45 PM ET Religion/Sprituality and mental health Current Trends Client data Informed consent Cultural competence Religious interventions Ethical models Case examples End 2:15 PM ET

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## The Presenter

Jeffrey E. Barnett, Psy.D., ABPP is a licensed psychologist and is board certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology in Clinical Psychology and in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology. Additionally, he is a Distinguished Practitioner in Psychology of the National Academies of Practice. He also is a Professor of Psychology at Loyola University Maryland. He is a nationally recognized expert in professional ethics issues for mental health professionals and has served as chair of the ethics committees of the Maryland Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Board of Professional Psychology. He also has served as the Vice Chair of the Maryland Psychology Licensing Board. Dr. Barnett has numerous publications to include 13 books and over 250 articles and book chapters and over 300 professional presentations that focus on ethics, legal, and professional practice issues for mental health professionals. Through his many publications and presentations Dr. Barnett has made major contributions in ethics and ethics education, ethical decision-making, online education, mentoring, boundaries and multiple relationships, self-care and the promotion of psychological wellness, clinical supervision, tele-mental health, integrating religion and spirituality into clinical practice, business of practice, and integrating Complementary and Alternative Medicine into clinical practice. Among his many awards he is a recipient of the American Psychological Association's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Ethics Education and its award for Distinguished Contributions to the Independent Practice of Psychology.

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