

# Ethical and Legal Issues in Clinical Supervision: Essentials for Effective Supervisors

Clinical supervision is central to the training of every mental health clinician. Ensuring it is conducted in an ethical and effective manner is of great importance for our professions and for the public we serve. This webinar is designed for all health professionals engaged in clinical supervision of trainees in clinical settings. The focus of this webinar is on ethics, legal, and practical aspects of clinical supervision. Important issues to be addressed include the supervision contract between supervisor and supervisee; and the supervisor's responsibilities to the supervisee, to the supervisee's clients, to the public at large, and to the profession. A developmental perspective on supervision will be presented that focuses on the supervisory process in the face of the supervisee's evolving training needs. How to balance the at times competing obligations of the role of supervisor (supportive teacher vs evaluator and gatekeeper for the profession) will be addressed. Specific ethical dilemmas and challenges that frequently arise in clinical supervision and legal issues relevant to all supervisors and their supervisees will be discussed. Clinical examples will be presented to stimulate discussion and to help illustrate options for addressing these situations. Strategies for effective clinical supervision will be discussed that can be utilized by all supervisors.

## Target Audience

Psychologists      Social Workers      Counselors  
Therapists      Psychiatrists      Nurses  
Course level: Intermediate

## Learning Objectives

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

- 1) Describe the clinical supervisor's obligations to various individuals and entities.
- 2) Describe the ethical challenges often faced by supervisors
- 3) Explain the legal issues relevant to the clinical supervision process
- 4) Explain how to appropriately initiate the supervisory relationship
- 5) Explain the proactive steps to take to promote an effective supervisory relationship and process

## Seminar Schedule

Typically begins at 11 AM and ends at 2:15 PM Eastern time. There is one 15 minute break. However, check the webinar schedule.

## Outline

Begin 11 AM ET  
Understanding supervision  
Key ethical issues  
APA ethics code  
NASW ethics code  
ACA ethics code  
Informed consent  
Contracting  
Break 12:30-12:45 PM ET  
Competence  
Confidentiality  
Documentation  
Boundary issues  
Diversity  
Feedback  
Liability  
Effective vs. ineffective supervision  
End 2:15 PM

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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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This seminar has been reviewed and approved by Keith Hannan, Ph.D., Phil Rich, LICSW, Daphne Fatter, Ph.D., and Loreen Yearick, MSN, RN. This approval expires on March 1, 2025.

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