

ACA Ethical Standards Casebook

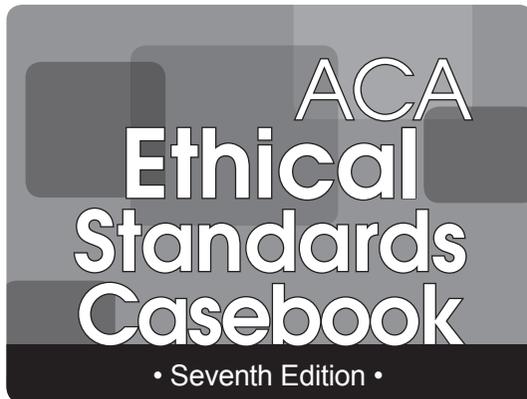
• Seventh Edition •

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Gerald Corey



AMERICAN COUNSELING
ASSOCIATION

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*To our student readers—the next generation of
counseling professionals who will guide us
through uncharted waters.*



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Acknowledgments

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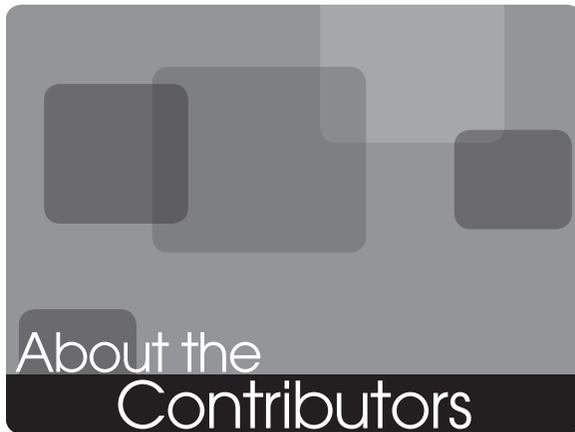
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We hope students and seasoned practitioners of counseling will find this *Casebook* to be a valuable resource. We believe the *Casebook* can be utilized effectively in an ethics course or in a practicum or internship experience to help future members of our profession learn about their ethical responsibilities and ways to address ethical dilemmas. The vignettes that illustrate the standards help to clarify their intent and provide examples of appropriate practice.

The 12 chapters in this book examine an array of ethical issues: client rights and informed consent; social justice and counseling across cultures; confidentiality; competence; managing value conflicts; counseling minor clients; managing boundaries; working with clients who may harm themselves; technology, social media, and online counseling; counselor education and supervision; research and publication; and the intersection of ethics and law.

Each of the 12 chapters is followed by two case studies that illustrate some of the issues examined in the chapter. Each case study presents an ethical dilemma and is followed by questions for thought and discussion, an analysis of the case, and additional questions for further reflection. Students have often told us that they had never thought about certain ethical questions until they were confronted with cases that raised difficult issues or posed dilemmas that could not be neatly resolved. This *Casebook* gives students an opportunity to examine many ethical issues before they confront them in practice. As you read each of the case studies, put yourself in the role of a consultant to the professional described in the case. If this person were to consult you regarding the case, what would you want to say? You can also assume the role of the counselor, student, supervisor, or professor in the case and reflect on how you might deal with the situation.

For experienced counselors, we hope the *Casebook* serves as a vehicle for continuing education and that you use the material to further your aspirational ethics. As you read, reflect, and discuss the material with your colleagues, ask yourselves: “How can I best monitor my own behavior?” “How can I apply relevant standards to situations I encounter?” “How can I develop increased ethical sensitivity?” “How can I ensure that I am thinking about what is best for my clients, my students, or my supervisees?”

We believe that ethics is best viewed from a developmental perspective. We may look at issues in one way as students; later, with time and experience, our views are likely to have evolved. Ethical reasoning takes on new meaning as we encounter a variety of ethical dilemmas. Professional maturity entails being willing to question ourselves, to discuss our doubts with colleagues, and to engage in continual self-monitoring.