

# **Client Welfare, Therapist Responsibility: Legal and Ethical Considerations**

Presented by: Pamela Harmell, Ph.D.

**Friday, February 7, 2019 8:30AM-4PM (6 contact hours)**  
**1301 Pine Avenue Long Beach, CA 90813 Training Room 2nd Floor**

## **Content**

This workshop addresses therapist responsibility to ensuring patient welfare in all aspects of practice. Participants will learn to deal with ethical dilemmas such as (1) when therapist values conflict with patient values (highlighting two precedent-setting legal cases), (2) working with minors and cultural competence, (3) suicide assessment, prevention, opioid use, (4) current ethical standard of care in the world of technology, reputation protection, Skype, texting, social media and HIPAA compliance, (5) Tarasoff and its progeny, (6) clinical supervision and multiclient situations. Literature updates, along with relevant Codes of Ethics and current expert opinion will be included in all areas of discussion. This program overviews the current research findings and knowledge that inform the practice of ethical and legal practice.

## **After this workshop, participants will be able to:**

- 1) Name two reasons why it is mandatory to be aware of one's own personal and professional values and how to maintain "value neutrality."
- 2) Name the four ways psychotherapists are held accountable for our actions as clinicians and can avoid licensing and disciplinary actions and note trends in licensing and civil violations.
- 3) Identify the two sides of whether or not Skype is HIPAA compliant and to identify and increase awareness of legal and ethical issues related to cybertherapy, technology and social media in clinical practice.
- 4) Name two reasons why California is a "duty to protect" state and no longer a "duty to warn" state.
- 5) Name two reasons why it is important to use "bracketing."
- 6) Name two reasons why NSSI is related to suicide with minors and young adults.

## **Who should attend:**

Licensed psychologists, marriage and family therapists, and clinical social workers who want to expand their knowledge and competency in ethical and legal practice as they relate to mental health professionals. Unlicensed mental health professionals and trainees are also welcome to attend though program content will be at the postdoctoral/post-licensure level.

## **About the Presenter**

Dr. Pamela Harmell is a national lecturer specializing in legal and ethical issues in clinical practice. She is a Professor at the Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology and has written extensively in professional publications on ethical practice and has formally studied law. She is the Past President of the Board of Psychology. Dr. Harmell is former Chair of the California State Ethics Committee, is the current Chair of the Los Angeles County Psychological Association Ethics Committee. She served on the Board of Directors of the California Psychological Association and is Past President of the Los Angeles County Psychological Association.

## **Registration Information**

Please register at <https://www.tgclb.org/our-internships-and-trainings/continuing-education/>. The

cost is \$120.

**Provider Approval**

The Guidance Center is approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Guidance Center maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) accepts programs offered by approved APA sponsors of continuing education for licensed marriage and family therapists and licensed clinical social workers.

**Conflict of Interest**

There is no commercial support for this CE program or instructor. There are no known conflicts of interest.

**Program Contact**

For additional questions regarding this training, please contact the program administrator, Kendra Bailey, Ph.D. at [training\\_rsvp@tgclb.org](mailto:training_rsvp@tgclb.org).