International Association of Trauma Recovery Coaching

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CERTIFIED TRAUMA SPECIALIST

CODE OF ETHICS

All Certified Trauma Specialists certified through the International Association of Trauma Recovery Coaching must ascribe to the following ethical standards:

# Delivery of Services

* Certified Trauma Specialists do not use their certification to provide any type of coaching, healing or interventional activities targeted at aiding trauma survivors with their recovery. The certification gives you an understanding of trauma as well as how to respond to others in a trauma-informed manner. You may offer trauma-informed interactions, resources during an individual’s trauma response, psychoeducation and formulate policies and procedures that are trauma-informed in your and other’s businesses.
* Certified Trauma Specialists always provide trauma-informed services, with safety as their primary consideration.
* Certified Trauma Specialists will not offer services to clients who require assistance with issues outside of the Specialist’s scope of competence.
* Certified Trauma Specialists will seek professional consultation from a qualified individual when they encounter issues that they are not fully competent to handle or need resources on how to proceed with a particular issue, client population or business policy/procedure.
* Certified Trauma Specialists will not diagnose, assess or treat mental health issues, nor do they give advice about the diagnoses a client has received.
* Certified Trauma Specialists will not provide advice about psychotropic medication.
* Trauma does not exist in a vacuum. As Certified Trauma Specialists, we must always consider the context surrounding each client’s trauma experiences. We seek to understand our client’s experience by asking about factors that provide that context, such as culture, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. After we understand each client’s unique experience, we hold that context in the forefront of our work with them throughout our interactions with them. We will also consider the context of what the client may have inherited regarding these qualities from prior generations.

Confidentiality:

* Certified Trauma Specialists keep confidential anything revealed to them by clients unless their employer or working environment requires otherwise. They do not disclose their work with any clients, client records or any client information to anyone unless a client is a danger to themselves or someone else, they have written consent from their client, a court-ordered subpoena, or their employer requires otherwise.
* Certified Trauma Specialists keep their client records in a way that will maintain those client’s confidentiality.
* Certified Trauma Specialists *voluntarily* serve as Mandatory Reporters. They ALWAYS report current and ongoing abuse to minors, the disabled and elders to the appropriate local agencies unless their employer has specific policies in place forbidding this practice.

Behavior Standards:

* Certified Trauma Specialists recognize that a power differential can be triggering for many trauma survivors and work as much as possible with clients as peers and equals.
* Certified Trauma Specialists treat their clients, as well as their client’s time and money, with respect.
* Certified Trauma Specialists will not discriminate against any race, gender, social class, gender identity or religious belief. Certified Trauma Specialists respect their client’s views, ideals and beliefs.
* Certified Trauma Specialists set boundaries with their clients that facilitate safe interactions with them. Specifically, Certified Trauma Specialists avoid dual relationships with their clients and never engage in romantic or sexual relationships or financial dealings with them.
* Certified Trauma Specialists never refer their clients to services that they have not personally vetted.
* Certified Trauma Specialists keep up to date with research and methodology in the field of trauma.
* Certified Trauma Specialists do not work with clients while impaired by drugs or alcohol.
* Certified Trauma Specialists will not use another person’s intellectual property without giving/seeking appropriate credit and reference for it.

# The Intersection of Professional and Personal Standards

Certified Trauma Specialists will conduct themselves at all times in accord with their professional status and in such a way as neither undermines public confidence in the profession, nor brings it into disrepute, being aware of professional and personal boundaries.

Certified Trauma Specialists will not publicly criticize, malign or professionally obstruct another member of the profession, unless there is an issue of public protection and concern which should be addressed through a report to the Professional Standards Committee.

Certified Trauma Specialists will be aware of their personal beliefs and biases, including how they can show up uninvited in work with clients. In knowing these things, the Specialist will not bring personal beliefs and biases into their professional work with clients, holding their beliefs as superior or necessary for the client to also hold.

If a Certified Trauma Specialist is charged with a crime involving alcohol or drugs, and/or a crime against persons they must report that charge to Dr. Jai Belton, the chairperson of the Professional Standards Committee, JaiBelton@IAOTRC.com, within 10 days. The Committee will meet and decide on a course of action, if one

is necessary. The individual will have an opportunity to discuss the charges with the committee.

Possible courses of action are a temporary suspension of a credential or deciding to withhold action until the charges are resolved. If the charges are upheld the Specialist may have their credential temporarily or permanently revoked, depending upon nature and severity of the crime.

If a Certified Trauma Specialist does not report charges and the Professional Standards Committee becomes aware of them, the individual risks an immediate suspension of their credential and further penalties depending on the nature and severity of the crime.

# Failure to Cooperate

Members are asked to cooperate with the Professional Standards Committees complaints process, to provide the Committee with evidence requested as part of a complaints process, and to attend and cooperate with complaints hearings when necessary. If Certified Trauma Specialists choose not to cooperate, the Committee will process any complaints without the individual’s input.

#  Consequences of a Breach of Ethics

Should a Certified Trauma Specialist violate these Ethical Standards they are in danger of having their certification revoked temporarily or permanently. If a peer or client wishes to report an ethical violation, they may do so by contacting Dr. Jai Belton, the chairperson of the Association’s Professional Standard’s Committee, at JaiBelton@iaotrc.com.