

# Welcome

▶ Relax

▶ Take a deep breath

# Ethics

- ▶ What are they?
- ▶ Personal vs professional

# Ethical Challenges

- ▶ What are the key ethical challenges facing our field?
- ▶ What are the key challenges you think you will face treating people with a gambling problem will be?
- ▶ What ethical concerns have you observed in others?

# Tools

▶ YOU

# Ingredients

▶ Thoughts

▶ Skills

▶ Feelings

▶ Knowledge

▶ Behaviors

▶ Experience

Knowledge

Power

Love

# Key Principles

- ▶ Autonomy
- ▶ Nonmaleficence
- ▶ Beneficence
- ▶ Justice
- ▶ Fidelity
- ▶ Veracity

# Gambling Specific

- ▶ Competence
- ▶ Conceptualization
- ▶ Courage

# PWPG

- ▶ Suicidality At least twice as common
- ▶ Treatment
- ▶ Intimate Partner Violence
- ▶ Associated “addictions”

# PWPG

- ▶ Percentage of individuals with at least one depressive symptom is highest among pathological gamblers (73.33%,  $n = 275$ ), followed by problem (59.02%,  $n = 36$ ) and at-risk gamblers (58.57%,  $n = 41$ ). Overall, participants reported a mean of 4.19 (SD = 3.28) depressive symptoms.
- ▶ *Journal of behavioral addictions*, 7(2), 384–391.  
<https://doi.org/10.1556/2006.7.2018.38>

## APRIL 2025 GGR PER GAMING VERTICAL, ANNUAL CHANGE\*

	Total GGR	Traditional GGR	Sports Betting GGR	iGaming GGR
	\$6.18B	\$4.14B	\$1.16B	\$870.6M
Over Apr. 2024	+5.6% ▲	+1.9% ▲	+3.4% ▲	+32.5% ▲

## YTD GGR PER GAMING VERTICAL, ANNUAL CHANGE\*

	Total GGR	Traditional GGR	Sports Betting GGR	iGaming GGR
	\$25.11B	\$16.61B	\$5.08B	\$3.39B
Over Jan.-Apr. 2024	+6.2% ▲	+1.3% ▲	+10.8% ▲	+28.5% ▲

\*As of the publication date, March and April sports betting revenue for Arizona were not available.

SOURCE: AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION



# The basics

# Some things to consider

- ▶ What does the code tell me to DO?
- ▶ What is the underlying principle?
- ▶ How does that fit for me?
- ▶ Legal, clinical or ethical

# Most common violations

- ▶ **dual relationships**
- ▶ **Incompetence/misrepresentation**
- ▶ **sexual relationships with clients**
- ▶ **breach of confidentiality**
- ▶ **Failure to obtain informed consent**

# Client Welfare and Autonomy

- ▶ **Respect for Persons:**
- ▶ **Self-Determination:**
- ▶ **Beneficence:**
- ▶ **Client needs come first**
- ▶ **Client abandonment**

# Non-discrimination



- ▶ Accessible
- ▶ Appropriate
- ▶ Relevant

# Boundaries and professionalism

- ▶ **Maintaining boundaries**
- ▶ **Avoiding conflict of interest and exploitation**
- ▶ **Professional competence**
- ▶ **Inter-professional respect**

# Played out in different contexts

- ▶ Goal
- ▶ Role
- ▶ Audience

# Evaluating in terms of the relationship

- ▶ Role
- ▶ Transference
- ▶ Countertransference
- ▶ Gifts
- ▶ Socializing
- ▶ Recovery

# What are boundaries

- ▶ **Time**
- ▶ **Place**
- ▶ **Goals**
- ▶ **Role**
- ▶ **Touch**
- ▶ **Gifts**
- ▶ **Self disclosure**
- ▶ **socialization**
- ▶ **Different from other relationships**

# Dual Relationship

- ▶ Any “relationship” or role outside of my primary one.
- ▶ Multiple relationships
- ▶ More than one

# How does it happen

- ▶ Generally happens over time
- ▶ Generally includes opportunity
- ▶ Generally includes our vulnerability
- ▶ Sometimes involves “helpfulness”
- ▶ Sometimes involves over-identification
- ▶ Rarely is “pre-meditated”

# Professional impairment

- ▶ Seek therapy when needed

Nan Franks NPG conference  
July 2025



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under  
CC BY-NC-ND

# Confidentiality and Disclosure

- ▶ **Respecting Confidentiality**
- ▶ **Informed Consent**
- ▶ **When can I disclose without a ROI**

# Enemies of confidentiality

- ▶ **Helpfulness**
- ▶ **Expedience**
- ▶ **Ego**
- ▶ **Intimate conversation**

# Social Media Lends Itself To A Multitude Of Possible Ethical Issues:

- ▶ Conflict of Interest
- ▶ Privacy and Confidentiality
- ▶ Inappropriate Self-Disclosure
- ▶ Dual Relationships



# Ethics of self-care

- ▶ You are the instrument of your work
- ▶ Burnout
- ▶ Compassion Fatigue
- ▶ Secondary traumatization

# Keys to decision making

- ▶ Is this challenge an ethical one?
- ▶ If so, what principle is involved?
- ▶ Who might be helped?
- ▶ Who might be harmed?
- ▶ Whose interest comes first in this case?
- ▶ Do I need feedback?
- ▶ What do I say to the New York Times?



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Have the  
courage  
to give  
and  
accept  
feedback



It's not just about getting rid of the bad stuff. It's a great deal about adding in more good stuff.

Nan Franks NPG conference  
July 2025

(you mean I don't have to quit my job?)

▶ If you always do what you always did you will always get what you've always got.

- ▶ What is YOUR plan?
- ▶ Make the commitment.
- ▶ Share the commitment.

# Thank you.



Nan Franks NPG conference  
July 2025