



## **MHRT CODE OF CONDUCT:**

### **An Ethical Approach to MHRT Practice**

#### **PREAMBLE:**

The Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician Community (MHRT/C) and the Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician I (MHRT I) Certifications recognize an individual's qualifications to provide community and residential support services to adults with mental illness in a variety of settings at the level of their training. Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, has the responsibility for ensuring the MHRT Certification programs operate in a fair, equitable, and ethical manner. As such, all MHRT/Cs and MHRT Is shall adhere to the following principles:

- To honor each client's right to self-determination and their right to make their own life choice
- To seek and provide culturally appropriate services to the best of their ability
- To avoid any words or actions which may reflect prejudice or discrimination concerning any race, culture, creed, gender, lifestyle or disability
- To embark with hope on a recovery journey with every person they serve and let the client direct their own healing process
- To work from a strengths perspective, seeing and maximizing the recovery assets of each person served
- To act fairly and honestly in professional relationships and not exploit a client for personal gain
- To uphold the principle that the MHRT/C's and MHRTI's primary responsibility is to the person receiving services

#### **STANDARDS:**

Ethical standards are the basis of human services work. The following standards articulate fundamental values, ethical principles and essential conduct of the MHRT certificate holder.

- a. The MHRT is always and solely responsible for establishing and maintaining professional boundaries. Therefore, an MHRT/C or MHRT I shall not engage in sexual or romantic behavior with or towards a client. Client consent to or initiation of sexual or romantic behavior is not a defense under this code.
- b. An MHRT/C or MHRT I shall not exploit the knowledge, trust or influence gained from a prior MHRT/client relationship to pursue, engage in or maintain a sexual or romantic relationship with a former client.

- c. An MHRT/C or MHRT I shall not engage in sexual or romantic behavior with members of a current or former client's family or with other persons with whom the client or former client maintains a close personal relationship when there is a foreseeable risk that the relationship could cause harm to or exploitation of the client or former client.
- d. An MHRT/C or MHRT I will not initiate or maintain a dual relationship with a client or the spouse, partner or family member of a client which could reasonably be expected to impair or diminish the professional judgment, objectivity or effectiveness of the MHRT or pose a risk of harm to or exploitation of the client.
- e. The MHRT/C or MHRT I shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations concerning their actions while providing services to clients, including all laws cited in contracts with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services. These include, but are not limited to, any crimes under the laws of the United States or the State of Maine which are Class A, B, C, D, or E, related to the provision of services provided to clients, an essential element of which is dishonesty.
- f. An MHRT/C or MHRT I shall refrain from undertaking any activity when they know or should know that their personal problems are likely to lead to harm to a client. When an MHRT becomes aware of personal problems that may interfere with adequately performing work-related duties, the MHRT must take appropriate measures, such as obtaining professional consultation or assistance, and determine whether s/he should limit, suspend, or terminate his/her work-related duties.
- g. When an MHRT/C or MHRT I becomes aware that a colleague may be impaired, the MHRT has a duty to discuss the situation with a supervisor.
- h. An MHRT/C or MHRT I respects the client's right to confidentiality and informs individuals of their rights at the outset of services using clear and understandable language.
- i. The MHRT/C or MHRT I follows established policies and procedures to protect access to client records to authorized persons only.
- j. The MHRT/C or MHRT I engages in ongoing training and education to develop and refine knowledge and skills in competencies related to the performance of the role of the MHRT/C or MHRT I.
- k. The MHRT/C or MHRT I advocates for clients and assists clients in learning to advocate for themselves.
- l. The MHRT/C or MHRT I works to eliminate prejudice and discrimination and promotes acceptance of people who experience mental illness.
- m. The MHRT/C or MHRT I collaborates with others providing services to an individual in a respectful and professional manner.

**Related Links:**

*CFR 42 on Confidentiality:*

[https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/textidx?](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/textidx?c=ecfr&sid=b7e8d29be4a2b815c404988e29c06a3e&rgn=div5&view=text&node=42:1.0.1.1.2&idno=42)

[c=ecfr&sid=b7e8d29be4a2b815c404988e29c06a3e&rgn=div5&view=text&node=42:1.0.1.1.2&idno=42](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/textidx?c=ecfr&sid=b7e8d29be4a2b815c404988e29c06a3e&rgn=div5&view=text&node=42:1.0.1.1.2&idno=42)

*Maine Statute on Confidentiality:*

<http://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/22/title22sec1711-C.html>

*Maine DHHS Overview of Confidentiality:*

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/samhs/mentalhealth/rights-legal/confidentialitystatement.html>



**MHRT CODE OF CONDUCT SIGNATURE AND COMMITMENT**

*My signature below indicates that I have read the MHRT Code of Conduct and that I agree to abide by the Code.*

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Full name of MHRT/C or MHRT I

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed

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Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed