



Guidelines for Requesting Advisory Opinions From CRCC's Ethics Committee

Consistent with the intent of the CRCC Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors (Code), the CRCC Ethics Committee recommends that rehabilitation counselors who are considering seeking advisory opinions first consult with other rehabilitation counselors and colleagues who are knowledgeable about ethics in order to attempt to resolve questions that may easily be addressed by other knowledgeable parties. If these attempts do not result in resolution of the matter, individuals may request advisory opinions from the CRCC Ethics Committee.

The Committee provides advisory opinions on select situations having ethical implications. These advisory opinions are provided as a general educational service and are rendered in response to limited and unverified information provided to the Committee. Therefore, it should not be construed as direct advice regarding the unique or specific ethical or legal action recommendations that should be followed regarding the issues raised. Rather, CRCC advisory opinions should be regarded only as general educational assistance, and not as specific direction in any particular instance.

Individuals requesting advisory opinions should be aware of the following:

- Requests should not be filed if there is reason to believe that a violation of the Code has occurred. Those attempting to determine if alleged behavior violates the Code may receive a response to a request for an advisory opinion that may later appear to contradict a ruling made if a complaint is actually filed. Advisory opinions do not allow for full disclosure of all available information, and thus, an opinion rendered may appear incongruous with a later action, which will always be based on a complete review of the facts of the case.
- Information presented in a request for an advisory opinion, along with the Committee's response to that request, may be presented for educational purposes to other parties in a sanitized format.
- CRCC's Ethics Committee meets four times per year. Advisory opinion requests received will be scheduled for review at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

How to request an advisory opinion:

Requests should be clear and concise and should include both the scenario and the requestor's opinion as to the Standard(s) in the CRCC Code that relates to the matter, as well as the requestor's interpretation of how the Standard(s) applies to the scenario. In addition, if the requestor is a CRC, the request should include the results of consultation efforts with other rehabilitation counselors and colleagues regarding the matter. All requests should be sent in writing to the attention of the Ethics Committee at CRCC, 1699 East Woodfield Road, Suite 300, Schaumburg, IL 60173.