

# **Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice**

*Arkansas Board of Health Education - 1997*

The Arkansas Board of Health Education sets forth this document as a Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice for all health educators within the State of Arkansas pursuant to Section 17-53-204 of the Arkansas Code.

Health Educators certified by the Arkansas Board of Health Education must observe and comply with the current standards as outlined by the Society for Public Health Education. Violations shall be grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to Section 17-53-105 and 17-53-209 of the Arkansas Code.

## ***Responsibilities to the Society***

### **Health Educators:**

- Affirm an egalitarian ethic, believing that health is a basic human right for all.
- Provide people with all relevant and accurate information and resources to make their choices freely and intelligently.
- Support change by freedom of choice and self-determination, as long as these decisions pose no threat to the health of others.
- Advocate for healthful change and legislation, and speak out on issues deleterious to public health.
- Are candid and truthful in dealings with the public, never misrepresenting or exaggerating the potential benefits of services or programs.
- Avoid and take appropriate action against unethical practices and conflict of interest situations.
- Respect the privacy, dignity and culture of to the individual and the community, and use skills consistent with these values.

## ***Responsibilities to the Profession***

### **Health Educators:**

- Share their skills, experience and visions with their students and colleagues.
- Observe principles of informed consent and confidentiality of individuals.
- Maintain their highest levels of competence through continued study, training and research.
- Further the art and science of health education through applied research and report findings honestly and without distortion.
- Accurately represent their capabilities, education, training and experience, and act within the boundaries of their professional competence.
- Ensure that no exclusionary practices are enacted against individuals on the basis of gender, marital status, age, social class, religion, sexual preference, or ethnic or cultural background.

## **Definition of Unprofessional Conduct: (17-53-209)**

Unprofessional conduct in the practice of Health Education shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- A. Violating a provision of this chapter
- B.** Gross incompetence as defined by the regulations of the Board
- C. Violating the Standards of Professional Responsibility for Health Educators
- D. Refusing to provide professional services to a person because of race, creed, color, gender, age, or national origin in the practice of Health Education
- E. Permitting, aiding, or abetting an uncertified person to perform activities requiring health education certification
- F. Impersonation of another by any individual or applicant for certification, or, in the case of an individual, allowing any other person to use his or her health education certification
- G. Intentionally or recklessly causing physical or emotional harm to any individual in the practice of health education.
- H. Failing to maintain confidentiality, except as otherwise required or permitted by law, of all information that has been received from an individual or community during the course of any activity and all information about an individual which is obtained from tests or other means in the practice of Health Education
- I. Failing to keep proper records and documentation of health education services
- J. Ordering or providing unnecessary services or tests in the practice of health education
- K. Violating the Code of Ethics adopted by the Board
- L. Giving or receiving, directly or indirectly, any fee, commission, rebate or other compensation for professional health education services not actually and personally performed
- M. Being disciplined in another jurisdiction based on grounds that are the same or substantially the same as those which exist under the practice act
- N. Failing to report to the Board any adverse action taken against the health educator by another certification jurisdiction or failing to report to the Board the surrender of a certification or license or authorization to practice health education in another jurisdiction
- O. Failing to comply with mandatory reporting laws
- P. Failing to comply with any stipulation or agreement with the Board involving probation or a settlement of any disciplinary matters
- Q. Offering medication, prescription or otherwise, controlled substance or alcoholic beverages to a client, or accepting these substances from a client