



# WISCONSIN CERTIFIED PEER SPECIALIST CODE OF ETHICS

## **The following principles will guide certified peer specialists in their professional roles and relationships:**

1. I understand that my primary responsibility is to help peers understand recovery and achieve their own recovery needs, wants and goals. I will be guided by the principle of self-determination for each peer.
2. I will conduct myself in a manner that fosters my own recovery and I recognize the many ways in which I may influence peers and others in the community, as I serve as a role model.
3. I will be open to share with peers and coworkers my stories of hope and recovery and will likewise be able to identify and describe the supports that promote my recovery and resilience.
4. I have a duty to inform peers when first discussing confidentiality that intended serious harm to self or others cannot be kept confidential. I have a duty to accurately inform peers regarding the degree to which information will be shared with other team members, based on my agency policy and job description. I have a duty to inform appropriate staff members immediately about any intended serious harm to self or others or abuse from caregivers.
5. I will never intimidate, threaten, harass, unduly influence, physically force or restrain, verbally abuse, or make unwarranted promises of benefits to the peers I support.
6. I will not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate in any form of discrimination based on ethnicity, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, disability, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition or state.
7. I will advocate with peers so that individuals may make their own decisions when partnering with professionals.
8. I will not engage in sexual or any form of intimate activities with any peers I am currently serving, and for a minimum of one year after my peer services end. I will also not enter dual relationships or commitments that may conflict with the interests of peers I support.
9. I will keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery and openly share this knowledge with my coworkers and peers. I will refrain from sharing advice or opinions outside my scope of practice with peers.
10. I will utilize supervision and abide by the standards for supervision established by my agency. I will seek supervision to assist me in providing recovery-oriented services to peers.
11. I will not accept money or items of significant value from those I serve. I will not loan or give money to peers. I will follow agency guidelines.
12. I will protect the welfare of peers by ensuring that my conduct will not constitute physical or psychological abuse, neglect, or exploitation. I will always practice with trauma awareness.
13. I will, always, respect the rights, dignity, privacy, and confidentiality of those I support.
14. As a professional, if I find that my own recovery journey is compromised and interferes with my ability to provide support to my peers, I will engage in my own self-care and community care until such time that I am once again capable of providing professional care.

