CAAMP Code of Ethics

Part 1 – Purpose, Core Ethical Principles, and Responsibilities to Clients

California Association of Anger Management Providers (CAAMP)

1. Purpose and Scope

The California Association of Anger Management Providers (CAAMP) is committed to promoting the highest standards of ethical practice, professional integrity, and public trust among its members.

This Code of Ethics establishes the principles and standards expected of all CAAMP members, certified professionals, board members, instructors, presenters, committee members, volunteers, and others acting on behalf of the Association.

The purpose of this Code is to:

- Promote ethical and professional conduct.
- Protect the safety, dignity, and well-being of clients.
- Strengthen public confidence in the anger management profession.
- Encourage accountability, competence, and lifelong professional growth.
- Provide guidance for resolving ethical questions and concerns.
- Support fair and consistent professional standards throughout the Association.

This Code serves as a guide for ethical decision-making. While it cannot anticipate every circumstance that may arise in professional practice, members are expected to exercise sound judgment, seek consultation when appropriate, and always act in ways that uphold the integrity of the profession.

Members are responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, as well as any licensing or regulatory requirements governing their individual practices.

2. Core Ethical Principles

Every CAAMP member shall strive to uphold the following principles in all professional activities.

A. Integrity

Members conduct themselves honestly, ethically, and transparently in all professional relationships.

Members shall:

- Be truthful in all professional communications.
- Honor commitments and professional responsibilities.
- Avoid deception, fraud, or misrepresentation.
- Accept responsibility for their professional decisions and actions.

B. Respect

Members treat every individual with dignity, fairness, and respect regardless of age, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic status, marital status, military status, or any other protected characteristic.

Professional disagreements shall never diminish respect for clients, colleagues, or members of the public.

C. Competence

Members recognize the limits of their education, experience, certification, and professional expertise.

Members continually develop their knowledge and skills through continuing education, professional development, consultation, and self-reflection.

D. Responsibility

Members recognize that their professional decisions may significantly affect the lives of clients, families, courts, employers, and communities.

Members exercise sound judgment and place client welfare above personal, financial, or organizational interests whenever possible.

E. Professionalism

Members represent themselves and the profession in a manner that reflects honesty, courtesy, accountability, and respect.

Professional conduct extends to:

- In-person services
- Virtual services
- Social media
- Public speaking
- Marketing
- Teaching
- Court-related work
- Written communications

F. Public Trust

Members understand that the reputation of the profession depends upon the ethical conduct of every practitioner.

Each member shares responsibility for maintaining the credibility and integrity of anger management services.

3. Responsibilities to Clients

The welfare of clients shall remain the member's primary professional responsibility.

3.1 Client Dignity

Members shall treat every client with compassion, courtesy, and respect.

Members shall:

- Recognize each client's inherent worth.
- Foster an environment of safety and respect.
- Avoid intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, or exploitation.
- Respect individual differences and personal values.

3.2 Client Welfare

Members shall make reasonable efforts to promote the emotional, psychological, and educational well-being of clients.

Professional recommendations shall be based upon the client's needs rather than the member's personal beliefs or financial interests.

3.3 Professional Competence

Members shall provide only those services for which they possess appropriate education, training, certification, and experience.

When client needs exceed the member's competence, appropriate consultation or referral shall be made.

3.4 Informed Consent

Whenever appropriate, members shall explain:

- The nature of services.
- Program expectations.
- Fees and payment policies.
- Attendance requirements.
- Confidentiality and its legal limitations.
- Recordkeeping practices.
- Client rights and responsibilities.

Clients should have an opportunity to ask questions before services begin.

3.5 Confidentiality

Members shall safeguard confidential information obtained through professional relationships.

Confidential information may only be disclosed:

- With written client authorization;
- When required by law;
- When necessary to prevent serious and foreseeable harm; or
- Pursuant to a lawful court order.

Members shall understand and comply with all applicable privacy laws governing their practice.

3.6 Professional Boundaries

Members shall always maintain clear professional boundaries with clients.

Members shall avoid relationships that may:

- Impair professional judgment;
- Create conflicts of interest;
- Increase the risk of exploitation; or
- Undermine the therapeutic or educational relationship.

3.7 Non-Discrimination

Members shall not discriminate in the delivery of professional services.

Professional decisions shall never be influenced by prejudice or personal bias.

Members shall strive to provide services that are culturally responsive and respectful of diverse backgrounds and lived experiences.

3.8 Dual Relationships

Members shall avoid entering dual or multiple relationships when such relationships could reasonably impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation.

If unavoidable circumstances arise, members shall take appropriate steps to protect client welfare and document the rationale for their decisions.

3.9 Conflicts of Interest

Members shall avoid conflicts between professional responsibilities and personal, financial, or organizational interests.

When a potential conflict exists, members shall disclose it when appropriate and take reasonable steps to minimize its impact.

3.10 Fees and Financial Practices

Members shall establish fees that are fair, reasonable, and communicated in advance.

Members shall not:

- Charge deceptive or misleading fees;
- Misrepresent services provided;
- Falsify attendance records;
- Issue certificates for services not completed; or
- Accept compensation in exchange for compromising professional judgment.

3.11 Professional Records

Members shall maintain accurate, timely, and secure records consistent with applicable laws and accepted professional standards.

Records shall be protected from unauthorized access and retained for the period required by law.

3.12 Referrals

Members shall make referrals when doing so is in the client's best interest.

Members shall not make referrals primarily for personal financial gain or reciprocal business arrangements.

3.13 Client Safety

Members shall take reasonable steps to protect clients and others when they become aware of a credible threat of serious harm or when otherwise required by law.

Members shall follow applicable legal and ethical reporting obligations.

3.14 Termination of Services

Members shall terminate professional services when:

- Services are no longer beneficial;
- The professional relationship can no longer be maintained ethically;
- The client has achieved the agreed-upon goals; or
- Continued services are inappropriate.

When feasible, members should provide referrals or transition resources to support continuity of care.

CAAMP Code of Ethics

Part 2 – Professional Competence, Confidentiality, Professional Boundaries, and Cultural Respect

California Association of Anger Management Providers (CAAMP)

4. Professional Competence and Continuing Education

CAAMP members are responsible for maintaining the knowledge, skills, and professional judgment necessary to provide competent anger management services throughout their careers.

Professional competence is an ongoing responsibility rather than a one-time achievement.

4.1 Maintaining Competence

Members shall provide services only within the limits of their education, training, certification, supervised experience, and professional qualifications.

Members shall continually improve their knowledge through:

- Continuing education
- Professional conferences
- Specialized training
- Current research
- Professional consultation
- Self-evaluation

Members recognize that professional standards evolve over time and are responsible for remaining informed about developments within the profession.

4.2 Scope of Practice

Members shall accurately represent the services they are qualified to provide.

Members shall not diagnose, evaluate, or treat conditions that fall outside their education, credentials, or legal scope of practice unless authorized by applicable law.

Whenever appropriate, members shall refer clients to qualified professionals whose expertise better addresses the client's needs.

4.3 Continuing Education

Members are encouraged to pursue continuing education that enhances professional competence and supports ethical practice.

Educational activities may include:

- Anger management methodologies
- Conflict resolution
- Trauma-informed practices
- Domestic violence awareness
- Ethics
- Cultural competence
- Mental health topics
- Communication skills
- Court-related procedures
- Emerging research and best practices

4.4 Professional Consultation

Members recognize that consultation with experienced colleagues can strengthen professional decision-making.

Members should seek consultation whenever ethical uncertainty, unusually complex client situations, or professional limitations arise.

Consultation does not relieve the member of responsibility for final professional decisions.

4.5 Self-Awareness

Members recognize that personal stress, illness, burnout, bias, trauma, or other life circumstances may affect professional judgment.

Members are encouraged to:

- Engage in appropriate self-care.
- Seek supervision or consultation when needed.
- Limit or suspend services if personal circumstances substantially impair professional effectiveness.

Protecting client welfare takes precedence over maintaining a full practice.

5. Confidentiality and Privacy

Respect for confidentiality is one of the cornerstones of ethical professional practice.

Members shall safeguard confidential information obtained through professional relationships.

5.1 Confidential Information

Confidential information includes, but is not limited to:

- Client identity
- Personal history
- Assessments
- Attendance records
- Progress reports
- Court-related documentation
- Communications
- Electronic records

Members shall protect confidential information regardless of the format in which it is stored.

5.2 Protection of Records

Members shall maintain reasonable administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect confidential information from unauthorized access, disclosure, loss, or misuse.

Electronic records should be stored using appropriate security measures consistent with applicable law.

5.3 Disclosure of Information

Members shall disclose confidential information only:

- With the client's written authorization;
- As required by law;
- Pursuant to a lawful court order;
- To prevent serious and foreseeable harm; or
- When otherwise legally permitted.

Whenever feasible, members should disclose only the minimum information necessary to accomplish the intended purpose.

5.4 Client Access

Members shall comply with applicable laws regarding a client's right to inspect, obtain, or request corrections to their records.

5.5 Court Reports

Members who prepare reports for courts, probation departments, employers, or other agencies shall ensure that reports are:

- Accurate
- Objective
- Complete
- Timely
- Supported by available documentation

Members shall never knowingly submit false, misleading, or incomplete reports.

5.6 Electronic Communication

Members recognize that email, text messaging, videoconferencing, cloud storage, artificial intelligence tools, and other electronic technologies present additional privacy risks.

Reasonable precautions shall be taken to protect confidential information when using electronic communication or technology.

6. Professional Boundaries

Professional boundaries preserve objectivity, protect clients, and strengthen public confidence in the profession.

6.1 Professional Relationships

Members shall maintain relationships with clients that always remain professional.

Professional judgment shall never be influenced by personal, financial, romantic, or social interests.

6.2 Sexual Relationships

Members shall not engage in sexual relationships, sexual contact, or sexually exploitative behavior with current clients.

Members shall avoid any behavior that could reasonably be interpreted as sexual harassment or exploitation.

6.3 Financial Relationships

Members shall avoid financial arrangements with clients that could impair professional judgment or exploit the professional relationship.

6.4 Gifts

Members should exercise sound judgment when accepting or giving gifts.

Gifts shall never influence professional decisions or create expectations of preferential treatment.

6.5 Personal Benefit

Members shall not use professional relationships for personal gain unrelated to legitimate professional services.

Clients shall never be pressured to purchase unrelated products, services, or business opportunities.

6.6 Social Media

Members shall maintain appropriate professional boundaries on social media and other online platforms.

Members should carefully consider interactions that may compromise confidentiality or blur professional relationships.

7. Cultural Respect, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

CAAMP recognizes that effective anger management services require respect for the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives of all individuals.

Members shall strive to create welcoming, respectful, and inclusive professional environments.

7.1 Respect for Diversity

Members shall demonstrate respect for individuals regardless of:

- Race
- Color
- Ethnicity
- National origin
- Religion
- Age
- Sex
- Gender identity
- Gender expression
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Marital status
- Military or veteran status
- Socioeconomic status
- Immigration status
- Any other protected characteristic

7.2 Cultural Competence

Members recognize that cultural beliefs, family structures, communication styles, and life experiences may influence how anger is expressed, understood, and managed.

Members are encouraged to develop culturally responsive practices that promote effective communication and respectful service delivery.

7.3 Bias and Fairness

Members shall make professional decisions based upon objective professional judgment rather than personal assumptions, stereotypes, or prejudice.

When personal bias may interfere with competent services, members should seek consultation, additional education, or make an appropriate referral.

7.4 Accessible Services

Members should make reasonable efforts to improve access to services for individuals with disabilities and other barriers whenever practical and consistent with applicable law.

7.5 Inclusive Professional Environment

Members shall contribute to professional environments that encourage:

- Respectful dialogue
- Professional collaboration
- Constructive disagreement
- Equal opportunity
- Mutual respect

Harassment, intimidation, bullying, retaliation, or discriminatory conduct is inconsistent with this Code of Ethics.

CAAMP Code of Ethics

Part 3 – Integrity in Business Practices, Professional Relationships, Responsibilities to the Profession, and Responsibilities to the Public

California Association of Anger Management Providers (CAAMP)

8. Integrity in Business Practices, Advertising, and Public Communications

CAAMP members recognize that public confidence in the profession depends upon honesty, transparency, and ethical business practices. Members shall represent themselves, their qualifications, and their services truthfully in all professional communications.

8.1 Truthful Representation

Members shall accurately represent their education, credentials, certifications, licenses, professional affiliations, and experience.

Members shall not exaggerate or misrepresent:

- Professional qualifications
- Areas of specialization
- Years of experience
- Professional accomplishments
- Certifications or credentials
- Client outcomes
- Research or statistical claims

Professional titles shall only be used when they accurately reflect current qualifications.

8.2 Advertising and Marketing

Advertising shall be truthful, professional, and not misleading.

Members shall avoid advertising that:

- Guarantees specific outcomes.
- Exploits fear or emotional vulnerability.
- Makes unsupported claims.
- Misrepresents certification status.
- Diminishes the reputation of other professionals.
- Creates unrealistic expectations.

Testimonials shall comply with applicable laws and ethical standards.

8.3 Digital Communications

Websites, social media, podcasts, videos, blogs, newsletters, and other public communications should reflect the same ethical standards expected in direct professional practice.

Members should carefully distinguish educational information from professional advice and avoid sharing confidential client information in any public forum.

8.4 Artificial Intelligence and Technology

Members who use artificial intelligence or other emerging technologies in their practices remain fully responsible for the accuracy, appropriateness, privacy, and ethical use of any information generated or communicated.

Technology shall support, not replace, professional judgment.

8.5 Financial Integrity

Members shall conduct business honestly and fairly.

Members shall:

- Clearly disclose fees before services begin.
- Honor published cancellation policies.
- Maintain accurate financial records.
- Avoid deceptive billing practices.
- Avoid financial arrangements that compromise professional judgment.

9. Professional Relationships

Professional collaboration strengthens the profession and benefits clients.

Members shall treat colleagues, referral partners, instructors, court personnel, probation officers, educators, and other professionals with honesty, courtesy, and mutual respect.

9.1 Respect for Colleagues

Members shall:

- Communicate professionally.
- Respect differing professional opinions.
- Avoid harassment, intimidation, or retaliation.
- Address disagreements respectfully.

Professional disagreements should focus on issues rather than personal attacks.

9.2 Collaboration

Members are encouraged to cooperate with other professionals when doing so benefits clients or advances the profession.

Collaboration should respect confidentiality, professional boundaries, and each professional's scope of practice.

9.3 Fair Competition

Members shall compete fairly and ethically.

Members shall not:

- Knowingly make false statements about competitors.
- Attempt to damage another member's professional reputation through dishonest means.
- Solicit another professional's clients through deception or misrepresentation.

Professional excellence—not unfair competition—should distinguish one's practice.

9.4 Mentorship

Experienced professionals are encouraged to support students, new members, and emerging practitioners through mentoring, education, and constructive guidance.

Mentoring relationships shall remain professional and free from exploitation.

10. Responsibilities to the Profession and CAAMP

Membership in CAAMP carries responsibilities beyond individual practice.

Members contribute to the credibility and advancement of the profession through ethical conduct, continuing education, and participation in professional activities.

10.1 Upholding the Profession

Members shall conduct themselves in ways that strengthen public confidence in anger management services.

Members should promote evidence-informed practices, ethical decision-making, and professional accountability.

10.2 Compliance with Association Standards

Members shall comply with:

- The CAAMP Code of Ethics.
- Membership requirements.
- Certification standards.
- Continuing education requirements.
- Applicable Association policies.

Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.

10.3 Service to the Profession

Members are encouraged to contribute through:

- Teaching
- Mentoring
- Committee service
- Research
- Speaking
- Publishing
- Volunteer leadership
- Community education

Professional service helps strengthen the Association and the profession as a whole.

10.4 Ethical Leadership

Board members, instructors, presenters, committee members, and volunteers shall model ethical leadership through professionalism, fairness, transparency, and accountability.

Leaders shall avoid conflicts between personal interests and Association responsibilities.

11. Responsibilities to the Public

Members recognize that anger management professionals serve not only individual clients but also families, workplaces, schools, courts, and communities.

Professional conduct should promote public confidence and improve access to ethical services.

11.1 Public Education

Members are encouraged to provide accurate educational information regarding anger management, conflict resolution, emotional regulation, and healthy communication.

Public education should be evidence-informed and presented responsibly.

11.2 Community Responsibility

Members are encouraged to participate in activities that improve community well-being, reduce violence, strengthen families, and promote healthy conflict resolution.

Professional involvement may include volunteer service, education, advocacy, or collaboration with community organizations.

11.3 Public Trust

Members understand that unethical conduct by one professional can diminish confidence in the entire profession.

Each member shares responsibility for preserving the integrity, credibility, and reputation of anger management professionals.

11.4 Compliance with Law

Members shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws governing their professional activities.

When ethical obligations and legal requirements appear to conflict, members should seek appropriate legal or professional consultation while making every reasonable effort to protect client welfare and uphold the principles of this Code.

CAAMP Code of Ethics

Part 4 – Reporting Ethical Concerns, Enforcement, Disciplinary Procedures, and Acknowledgment

California Association of Anger Management Providers (CAAMP)

12. Reporting Ethical Concerns

CAAMP members share responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the profession. Members are encouraged to address ethical concerns promptly, fairly, and professionally.

The purpose of reporting ethical concerns is to protect the public, support ethical practice, and preserve confidence in the profession—not to punish individuals for honest mistakes or differences in professional judgment.

12.1 Duty to Report

Members who become aware of conduct that may constitute a serious violation of this Code should take appropriate action.

Whenever practical, members are encouraged to resolve minor concerns through respectful professional communication before initiating a formal complaint.

Conduct that presents a significant risk to clients, the public, or the profession should be reported promptly to CAAMP and, when required by law, to the appropriate governmental or licensing authority.

12.2 Good Faith Reporting

Members shall report ethical concerns honestly and in good faith.

Knowingly submitting false, malicious, or misleading complaints is itself an ethical violation.

Members shall cooperate honestly during any ethics review or investigation conducted by CAAMP.

12.3 Confidentiality of Complaints

CAAMP will make reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of ethics complaints and investigations consistent with fairness, due process, and applicable law.

Information shall be shared only with individuals who have a legitimate need to participate in the review process.

13. Review and Disciplinary Process

CAAMP is committed to a fair, impartial, and respectful process for reviewing alleged violations of this Code.

The Association recognizes that not every complaint constitutes an ethical violation and that all parties deserve an opportunity to be heard.

13.1 Initial Review

Upon receiving a written complaint, CAAMP may conduct a preliminary review to determine whether:

- The complaint falls within the Association's jurisdiction.
- Sufficient information has been provided.
- The alleged conduct, if true, could constitute a violation of this Code.

Complaints outside CAAMP's jurisdiction may be dismissed or referred to another appropriate organization or governmental agency.

13.2 Opportunity to Respond

When appropriate, the member whose conduct is under review shall be notified of the complaint and given a reasonable opportunity to provide a written response.

CAAMP may request additional information from either party before reaching a decision.

13.3 Possible Outcomes

After reviewing the available information, CAAMP may determine that:

- No violation occurred.
- The matter should be resolved through education or corrective action.
- A violation occurred requiring disciplinary action.
- Additional investigation is necessary.

Whenever practical, disciplinary actions should be proportional to the nature and seriousness of the violation.

13.4 Disciplinary Actions

Depending on the circumstances, disciplinary action may include:

- Educational guidance
- Written warning
- Letter of reprimand
- Required continuing education
- Probationary membership status
- Suspension of certification
- Suspension of membership
- Revocation of certification
- Expulsion from CAAMP

Nothing in this Code limits CAAMP's authority under its Bylaws or other governing documents.

14. Professional Accountability

Ethical practice requires ongoing self-reflection and personal accountability.

Members are encouraged to evaluate their own professional conduct regularly and to seek consultation, mentoring, or additional education whenever ethical uncertainty exists.

Acknowledging mistakes and taking corrective action reflects professional integrity and should be viewed as an opportunity for growth.

15. Amendments

This Code of Ethics may be amended by the CAAMP Board of Directors as the profession evolves and new ethical issues emerge.

Members are responsible for remaining familiar with the current version of the Code.

The most recent version approved by the Board shall supersede all previous editions.

16. Acceptance of the Code

By applying for or renewing membership in the California Association of Anger Management Providers, members acknowledge that they have read this Code of Ethics and agree to conduct themselves in accordance with its principles and standards.

Members understand that compliance with this Code is a condition of membership and certification and that violations may result in disciplinary action consistent with CAAMP's governing policies.

Effective Date

This Code of Ethics becomes effective upon approval by the CAAMP Board of Directors and supersedes all previous versions.

California Association of Anger Management Providers (CAAMP)

Promoting professionalism, ethical practice, and excellence in anger management services through education, certification, and accountability.

8348 3rd Street
Downey, CA 90241
Phone: (562) 413-1711
Email: info@thecaamp.com