

Standard Area 3.0

Ethical Practice



3.4 Conflict of Interest

Standard

A **regulated member** of ACSLPA identifies and manages all situations or circumstances of real, perceived or potential **conflict of interest** to protect his/her professional integrity and the **clients'** best interests.

Indicators

To demonstrate this standard, the regulated member will:

- a) Identify situations that could lead to or be interpreted as a conflict of interest (e.g., potential for personal or financial gain), avoiding such conflicts whenever possible.
- b) Manage real, perceived or potential conflict of interest situations through appropriate actions (e.g., disclosure, **recusal**) to minimize the impact.
- c) In situations when conflicts of interest cannot be avoided or resolved, document a description of the situation, efforts to resolve the conflict and the outcome.

Expected Outcomes

Clients can expect the regulated member to provide services that are in their best interests, disclose conflicts of interest and offer possible options to resolve any conflicts.

Resources

All ACSLPA documents and relevant Alberta Government legislation can be accessed from the ACSLPA website at www.acslpa.ca.

- ACSLPA. (2017). *Code of Ethics*. Edmonton: Author.
- ACSLPA. (2011). *Clinical Documentation and Record Keeping Guideline*. Edmonton: Author.

Client refers to “a recipient of speech-language pathology or audiology services, and may be an individual, family, group, community or population. An individual client may also be referred to as a patient”.

Conflict of interest refers to “a situation in which someone in a position of trust has competing professional and/or personal interests. Such competing interests can make it difficult to act impartially. A conflict of interest may exist even if no unethical or improper act results from it. A conflict of interest can undermine confidence in the person or the profession”.

Recusal refers to “the removal of oneself from participation (in an activity) to avoid a conflict of interest”.

Regulated member refers to “an individual who is registered with ACSLPA in any of the categories of membership prescribed in Regulation and in the ACSLPA Bylaws”.