

# Standard Area 2.0

## Professional Responsibility/Accountability



### 2.5 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 their 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.

**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 regulated categories of membership prescribed by *ACSLPA Bylaws*, the *Health Professions Act* and our *Regulations*.”