

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL of BEHAVIORAL
SCIENCES

M.Ed. in School Counseling

Practicum Confidentiality Agreement

Instructions to student: Read the statement below and sign at the bottom. Submit the signed original form to your site supervisor and submit a copy to your university supervisor.

Confidentiality

The professional responsibility of a counselor is to fully respect the right to privacy of those with whom they enter counseling relationships. Counselors (and students enrolled in counseling programs) must keep abreast of and adhere to all laws, policies and ethical standards pertaining to confidentiality. This confidentiality must not be abridged by the counselor except when there is clear and present danger to the client and/or other persons.

The Rationale

Confidentiality is an ethical term denoting a counseling practice relevant to privacy. Privileged communication is a legal term denoting a requirement to protect the privacy between counselor and client.

A client has the right to privacy and confidentiality. The counseling relationship requires an atmosphere of trust and confidence between the client and the counselor. Confidentiality ensures that disclosures will not be divulged to others except when authorized by the student or when there is a clear and present danger to the student and/or to other persons. It is the professional responsibility of counselors to fully respect the right to privacy of those with whom they enter counseling relationships. Accordingly, the counselor and client are provided with adequate physical facilities to guarantee the confidentiality of the counseling relationship.

Counselors should be aware that it is much more difficult to guarantee confidentiality in group counseling than in individual counseling. Communications made in good faith may be classified as privileged by the courts, and the communicating parties will be protected by law against legal action seeking damages for libel or slander. Generally, it may be said that an occasion of this particular privilege arises when one acts in the bona fide discharge of a public or private duty. This privilege may be abused or lost by malice, improper and unjustified motive, bad faith or excessive publication.

I have read this confidentiality statement and agree to abide by these guidelines to maintain confidentiality during the performance of my practicum responsibilities.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Date