



**MARYLAND ADDICTIONS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION BOARD**  
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**RESOLVING ETHICAL VIOLATIONS  
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES  
FOR CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SPECIALISTS**  
*August 2013*

**POLICY**

The MAPCB is concerned first and foremost with the welfare of clients who utilize the services of professionals certified by the MAPCB. In this regard, the following procedures apply only to violations that are ethical in nature, i.e. behaviors that are clearly and directly detrimental to client welfare or that impugn the reputation of the profession. Other matters related to peer recovery specialist performance should be handled by personnel procedures of the agency or other organization in which the peer recovery specialist is employed.

**PROCEDURE**

**FILING A COMPLAINT**

A complaint of ethical violation against a peer recovery specialist certified by the MAPCB may be filed with the MAPCB Administrator in writing by the alleged victim(s), certified peer recovery specialist, other professional, and/or concerned party. Complaints must be signed by at least two persons with personal knowledge of the alleged violation.

Within 30 days of receipt of the complaint from the MAPCB Administrator, the MAPCB Ethics Committee (comprised of no less than three MAPCB Board members) shall investigate all charges and make a determination as to the validity of the complaint. The Ethics Committee may also forward the complaint with any submitted information to the *Maryland State's Attorney office* for investigation as the MAPCB peer recovery specialist certification is also the state credential.

Refer to the *MAPCB Principles and Guidelines for Peer Recovery Specialists* for areas on which a complaint may be based.

## REVIEW PROCESS

Within 14 days of receipt of the complaint from the MAPCB Administrator, the Ethics Committee shall send, by certified return receipt mail, a summary of all charges to the alleged violator. At this same time, the Ethics Committee will request a written response from the peer recovery specialist charged with the violation. Such response shall be due within 30 days from the date of the letter notifying the peer recovery specialist of the charges. Additionally, the peer recovery specialist has the right to request a face-to-face meeting with the Ethics Committee to discuss the charges. Within 10 days of the request, the MAPCB Administrator will notify the peer recovery specialist of the date, time, and location of the meeting, which will be scheduled within 30 days from the request.

Upon receipt of the peer recovery specialist's written response or following a requested face-to-face meeting with the Ethics Committee, the Ethics Committee shall consult, deliberate and report its findings and recommendations to the full MAPCB within 15 days.

The Ethics Committee shall notify the peer recovery specialist, in writing, of the MAPCB's findings and/or any disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may be in the form of (a) an official letter of reprimand, (b) probation, (c) suspension of certification, or (d) revocation of certification.

The *Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists' Code of Ethics* (COMAR 10.58.03) will be consulted when determining the sanction level for a particular violation. Repeated or uncorrected violations will receive a greater penalty. Sanctions that MAPCB is jurisdictionally exempt from applying will be referred to the *Maryland State's Attorney office* for further action.

Peer recovery specialists who have relapsed and agree to go into an approved supervised treatment for one year with monthly progress reports furnished to the Board from the peer recovery specialist's treatment provider, may have a suspended certification reinstated once it is determined that said peer recovery specialist successfully completed that year's term of treatment. The peer recovery specialist will be mentored by one of the Board members during that time period. Non-participation in the mentoring process will impinge upon the peer recovery specialist's return to certified status.