

INTRODUCTION

The Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (ADED), previously known as the Association of Driver Educators for the Disabled was established in 1977. ADED is a non-profit organization established to support professionals working in the field of driver rehabilitation. Driver rehabilitation consists of evaluation, training, and vehicle modification recommendations for drivers and passengers with disabilities and age-related impairments as well as counseling and support in the pursuit of maintaining mobility within the community.

It is ADED's position that any person involved in the delivery of driver rehabilitation services (including but not limited to driver rehabilitation specialists (DRS), driver educators, allied professionals, mobility equipment vendors, manufacturers and clients) will conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists possessing the CDRS (Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist) certification are committed to such compliance.

In order to promote the best outcome for clients, prudent professional judgment should be used at all times, including consideration of applicable laws and other guidelines or resources that may exist regarding the delivery of driver rehabilitation services.

The ADED Code of Ethics is a set of principles set forth to guide the professional conduct of Driver Rehabilitation Specialists. Establishment of the *Code of Ethics* demonstrates ADED's commitment to fostering excellence in the field of driver rehabilitation.

ADED CODE OF ETHICS

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- PRINCIPLE A:** Demonstrating Concern for the Well Being Of Clients Served
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PRINCIPLE A: Demonstrating Concern for the Well Being Of Clients Served

A.1. Client Welfare

- a. **Primary Obligation.** The primary obligation of the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist is to promote the welfare of clients. A client is defined as an individual with a disability or impairment who is receiving services from a Driver Rehabilitation Specialist.
- b. **Safety.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists ensure the physical safety of clients by ensuring that all equipment used in the provision of services is in proper working order, is utilized in an appropriate manner and in an appropriate setting.
- c. **Impairment.** When the potential exists for the personal problems of the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist to cause harm to a client, themselves, or others, the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist refrains from offering services in the affected areas of practice until the situation has been rectified. Such problems may include physical illness, emotional issues, and psychological impairments.
- d. **Family and Caregiver Involvement.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists foster family and caregiver understanding and enlist family and caregiver involvement when appropriate.

A.2. Provider Objectivity

- a. **Personal Needs.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists avoid situations and refrain from actions that meet their personal needs at the expense of client needs.
- b. **Personal Bias.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists avoid imposing their own values, beliefs, and attitudes upon clients.
- c. **Judgment and Objectivity.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists avoid situations, activities, and relationships that interfere with professional judgment and objectivity.

A.3. Appropriate Relationships

- a. **Non-exploitation.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists are aware of the issues of influence and dependency within the client relationship and know not to exploit the client's trust.
- b. **Sexual Intimacy.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists do not engage in any type of sexual intimacies with clients.
- c. **Harassment.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists do not engage in harassment; physical, emotional, psychological or sexual. Sexual harassment may include unwelcome or unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, including offensive remarks about a person's sex.

A.4. Fees for Service

- a. **Establishing Fees.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists establish fees that are fair, reasonable, equitable, and commensurate with the services to be performed.
- b. **Advance Understanding.** Fees and methods of payment and collection for non-payment are clearly explained to clients in advance of services rendered.

A.5. Avoidance, Termination and Referral

- a. Refusal of Potential Client. If the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist determines that he/she would/could not be of professional assistance to a potential client, the relationship should be avoided. The client should be referred to an appropriate resource, such as a qualified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist or referred to the ADED CDRS directory. When appropriate, referrals to alternative community mobility resources should be provided.
- b. Appropriate Termination. The Driver Rehabilitation Specialist terminates services if the services are no longer required, the client can no longer benefit from services, the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist has reached the limit of his/her competency with respect to the service being provided, the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist has experienced an impairment that would interfere with the safe provision of services, for non-payment of fees, or when institutional or legal limits do not allow provision of further services. The client should be referred to an appropriate resource if feasible.

A.6. Client Records

- a. Appropriate Records. The Driver Rehabilitation Specialist maintains appropriate and necessary records reflecting accurate, objective information.
- b. Confidentiality of Records. The Driver Rehabilitation Specialists ensure that the client has signed a notice of privacy practices regarding the disclosure of protected health information as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA, PHIPA) or other governing applicable laws. The Driver Rehabilitation Specialist ensures confidentiality of records in all mediums with respect to maintenance, storage, handling, and destruction.
- c. Client Access. The Driver Rehabilitation Specialist provides adequate access for clients to their records in accordance with privacy policies and governing applicable laws.
- d. Informed Consent. The Driver Rehabilitation Specialist obtains informed written consent from clients to disclose or transfer records to legitimate third parties.

PRINCIPLE B: Respecting the Rights of Clients Served

B.1. Respecting Diversity.

- a. Non-discrimination. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists do not engage in discrimination on any basis, including race, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability (physical or mental), age, status as a parent, or genetic information.
- b. Cultural Diversity. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists strive to create a climate of acceptance and inclusiveness, and attempt to understand the culturally diverse backgrounds of their clients in the provision of driver rehabilitation services.

B.2. Right to Information and Self-determination

- a. Self-determination. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists involve clients in the determination of goals and priorities.

- b. Disclosure to Clients. Prior to assessment, the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist informs the client of the purposes, goals, potential outcomes, techniques, procedures, limitations, potential risks and benefits of services. The Driver Rehabilitation Specialist discloses the limitations of confidentiality, including those resulting from the use of computer technology and the transmission of electronic communication. Also disclosed are the consequences of refusal of services. The Driver Rehabilitation Specialist takes steps to ensure client understanding and informed consent.

B.3. Right to Privacy

- a. Respecting and Guarding Privacy. The Driver Rehabilitation Specialist respects the client's right to privacy and the confidential nature of client information. The Driver Rehabilitation Specialist takes steps to avoid illegal, unnecessary, and inadvertent disclosure of confidential information. This includes guarding the safety and security of confidential records, regardless of medium.
- b. Client Waiver. The right to privacy may be waived by the client, a legal guardian, or by a legally appointed representative.
- c. Essential Disclosure. When Driver Rehabilitation Specialists are compelled to disclose confidential information without a client waiver, such as in a court-ordered disclosure, only essential information is disclosed. If feasible, the client should be informed prior to such disclosure.
- d. Associates. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists make every effort to ensure that all associates, including coworkers, volunteers, and contractors, maintain privacy and confidentiality.

PRINCIPLE C: Fostering Excellence in the Field Of Driver Rehabilitation by Achieving and Maintaining a High Standard of Competence

C.1. Code of Ethics and Best Practice Guidelines.

- a. *Code of Ethics and Best Practice Guidelines.* The Driver Rehabilitation Specialist has the responsibility to become familiar with, develop an understanding of, and follow the ADED *Code of Ethics and Best Practice Guidelines*.

C.2. Professional Competence

- a. Boundaries of Competence. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists practice only within their areas of expertise as defined by the boundaries of their competence. These boundaries are determined by their education, training, professional experience, and professional credentials.
- b. Diverse Populations. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists will endeavor to gain personal awareness, knowledge, sensitivity, and skills needed to provide services to a diverse client population.
- c. New Specializations. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists provide services in specialized areas new to them only after obtaining the appropriate education and training necessary to develop the skills required to provide such new services. During the skill development phase, Driver

Rehabilitation Specialists make provisions for ensuring the quality of service provision as well as protecting client safety and the safety of others.

- d. **Employment Assignments.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists only accept employment, assignments, cases, and referrals for which they are qualified by education, training, professional experience, and professional credentials. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists hired for Driver Rehabilitation positions, make assignments to, provide client cases to, and make referrals only to individuals who are qualified and competent.
- e. **Continuing Education.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists pursue continuing education to maintain an awareness of current information pertinent to their areas of specialization and to maintain competence in the skills they utilize in service provision.

C.3. Public Responsibility

- a. **Unjustifiable Gains.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists do not use their professional positions to obtain unearned, unfair, or unjustified gains.
- b. **Conflicts Of Interest.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists do not knowingly place themselves in positions that would constitute conflicts of interest. If it becomes apparent that such a situation exists, the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist takes appropriate steps to rectify the situation, such as removing oneself from the situation or full disclosure of the conflict of interest.
- c. **Dishonesty.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists do not engage in any act or omission of a dishonest, deceitful, or fraudulent nature in the conduct of their professional activities.

C.4. Assessment Techniques

- a. **Development.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists hold paramount the welfare of clients in the development and dissemination of clinical and driver assessment techniques. Steps are taken to ensure the appropriate utilization of such techniques as well as the appropriate interpretation of results.
- b. **Utilization.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists use only assessment techniques, which they are qualified and competent to use. The selection of and utilization of assessment tools are based on current evidence to support the use of those tools. They do not misuse assessment results or interpretations.
- c. **Clients Right to Know.** The DRS respects the client's right to know and informs the client of the results and findings from any assessments administered, the clinical interpretation, and resulting recommendations that may impact driver rehabilitation services.

C.5. Teaching and Training Programs

- a. **Teacher/Trainer Role.** Driver Rehabilitation Specialists who are functioning as teachers or trainers are qualified and competent as driver rehabilitation practitioners and teachers/trainers. They are knowledgeable regarding applicable legal and ethical matters. They conduct education and training programs in an ethical manner consistent with the ADED *Code of Ethics*. They maintain appropriate relationship boundaries with students and trainees and do not subject them to discrimination or sexual harassment.

- b. Acknowledgements. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists give credit to students and trainees for their contributions to research, development of assessment techniques, and publications.
- c. Endorsement. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists provide endorsements only to those who are qualified to receive such endorsements. (Ex: toward certification, licensure, employment.)
- d. Responsibility for Client Welfare. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists who supervise services provided by student interns or new employees are responsible for ensuring that such services are provided in a professional manner, respect clients' rights, and demonstrate concern for the welfare of the client.

C.6. Resolving Ethical Issues

- a. Knowledge of Standards. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists are responsible for knowing and understanding the ADED *Code of Ethics* and *Best Practice Guidelines*.
- b. Seeking Clarification. A Driver Rehabilitation Specialist should seek advice if there is uncertainty as to whether or not a particular behavior constitutes a violation of the ADED *Code of Ethics* and *Best Practice Guidelines*.
- c. Employment Conflicts. If acting on behalf of an employer appears to place the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist in violation of the ADED *Code of Ethics* and *Best Practice Guidelines*, the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist should seek immediate advice.

PRINCIPLE D: Complying With Laws and Association Precepts Governing the Driver Rehabilitation Profession

D.1. Legal Standards

- a. Responsibility. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists have the responsibility to know, obey and abide by the laws and statutes of the legal jurisdictions in which they practice.
- b. Legal versus Ethical. If obeying the laws or statutes of the legal jurisdictions in which the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist practices places the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist in conflict with the ADED *Code of Ethics*, the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist should seek immediate advice.
- c. Legal Limitations. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists are familiar with and observe the legal limitations of the services they offer to clients.

D.2. Client Records.

- a. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists maintain appropriate records as necessitated by law, statute, regulations, and institutional requirements. Records will be maintained for at least the number of years consistent with jurisdictional requirements and are destroyed in a manner assuring confidentiality.

PRINCIPLE E: Providing Accurate Information Regarding Driver Rehabilitation Services and Qualifications

E.1. Advertising Practices - Restrictions.

- a. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists advertise their services to the public only in an accurate, honest, straightforward manner. They advertise only services that they are qualified and competent to provide.

E.2. Credentials

- a. Stated Credentials. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists claim only professional credentials possessed including degrees and training programs that have been completed and certifications and licenses obtained. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists take steps to correct any known misrepresentation or misinterpretation of their credentials by others.
- b. Credential Usage. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists use their credentials only in manners consistent with the guidelines established by the issuing bodies.
- c. Misrepresentation. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists do not misrepresent their credentials by identifying them in a fraudulent or deceptive manner. They do not attribute more to their credentials than the credentials actually represent. They do not claim or imply that other Driver Rehabilitation Specialists are not qualified to provide driver rehabilitation services solely because they do not possess certain credentials.

E.3. Reporting - Reports To Third Parties.

- a. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists provide to appropriate third parties reports that are objective, accurate, and honest with respect to their actions, assessments, interpretation, and recommendations.

PRINCIPLE F: Treating Colleagues and Other Professionals with Fairness, Discretion, and Integrity

F.1. Responsibility to Other Professionals

- a. Disparaging Comments. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists do not disparage or discredit other professionals with respect to competency or quality of services.
- b. Personal Public Statements. When making personal statements in a public context, Driver Rehabilitation Specialists take steps to ensure that the audience knows that they are speaking only from their personal perspective and that they are not speaking on behalf of all such professionals, ADED, or the profession.
- c. Confidentiality. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists take steps to safeguard confidential information about colleagues and staff.
- d. Accurate Representation. Driver Rehabilitation Specialists accurately represent the qualifications, views, contributions, and findings of colleagues.

PRINCIPLE G: Promoting Greater Understanding and Awareness of Driver Rehabilitation issues through communication to those in Rehabilitation, Healthcare, Education and to the Public.

G.1. Professional Association Involvement - Participation.

- a. When Driver Rehabilitation Specialists participate at local, state, and national association levels, efforts are made to promote an understanding and awareness of driver rehabilitation.

G.2. Public Responsibility

- a. Media Presentations. When Driver Rehabilitation Specialists provide information via any public medium or format, they take steps to insure that the information is accurate, consistent with current research, literature and practice, and in line with the *ADED Best Practice Guidelines* and *Code of Ethics*.
- b. Personal Public Statements. When making personal statements in a public context, Driver Rehabilitation Specialists take steps to ensure that the audience knows that they are speaking only from their personal perspective and that they are not speaking on behalf of all Driver Rehabilitation Specialists, ADED, or the profession.