



# CASE STUDIES OF ASHA CODE OF ETHICS

SPA234 Ethics and Legal Issues

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## CASE STUDY 1

- I am a speech-language pathologist and I own a small but growing private practice. I have developed an expensive electronic listening aid for use in therapy. I plan to market the instrument and sell it to some of my clients and am wondering if it would be ethical for me to do so.

## CASE STUDY 1

- ASHA Principle III, Rule (D).

III,D. Individuals shall not misrepresent research, diagnostic information, services rendered, results of services rendered, products dispensed, or the effects of products dispensed.

- What do you think?

## CASE STUDY 2

- I have some patients in my caseload who are really not benefiting from treatment. I need the clinical hours, so I'm not planning to dismiss them until the end of the semester. That's OK ethically , isn't it??

## CASE STUDY 2

- ASHA Principle 1, Rule (I): Individuals shall evaluate the effectiveness of services rendered and of products dispensed, and they shall provide services or dispense products only when benefit can reasonably be expected.
- What do you think?

## CASE STUDY 3

- My husband says he doesn't want me working with patients who are HIV positive or who have AIDS. Am I unethical if I refuse to work with these patients?

## CASE STUDY 3

- Principle I, Rule C: Individuals shall not discriminate in the delivery of professional services or the conduct of research and scholarly activities on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, gender identity/gender expression, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.
- What do you think?

## CASE STUDY 4

- A hearing aid company offers incentives for the sales of particular models of hearing aids. Is it unethical for me to participate in the promotion of these aids?

## CASE STUDY 4

- Principle III, Rule B, G

B: Individuals shall not participate in professional activities that constitute a conflict of interest.

G: Individuals' statements to the public when advertising, announcing, and marketing their professional services; reporting research results; and promoting products shall adhere to professional standards and shall not contain misrepresentations.

- What do you think?

## CASE STUDY 5

- I spoke with a fellow audiologist who also has her CCC about an incident during which she was clearly engaged in unethical conduct. She became indignant and threatened me with a lawsuit if I reported her. Should I just forget about it?

## CASE STUDY 5

- Principle IV, Rule M: Individuals who have reason to believe that the Code of Ethics has been violated shall inform the Board of Ethics.
- What do you think?

## CASE STUDY 6

- An individual who is severely hard-of-hearing has applied to our speech-language pathology graduate program. She has superior undergraduate grades and references, but we have doubts about whether her hearing loss will limit her success in the profession. Any thoughts?

## CASE STUDY 6

- Principle I, rule (A): Individuals shall provide all services competently.
- What do you think?