

Appendix A

Disability Ethical Case Studies

Case Study: Mr. Jones

Mr. Jones is a 34-year-old male born with spina bifida and uses a motorized wheelchair to ambulate. He is single, has never been married, and has a small support system he maintains a relationship with mainly through social media, including the telephone. He does not own a vehicle, lives in his apartment alone, and for the last 3 years has a home provider who visits him 5 times a week for a total of 15 hours to assist him with housekeeping and other daily living necessities. Mr. Jones is receiving financial and vocational assistance from a state VR program. He is enrolled in a graduate counseling program and is projected to graduate with a master's degree in less than a year. He has been exploring career options and recently discussed with his assigned vocational counselor about applying for a full-time VR counselor position in the same agency, stating he has the qualifications and insight about living with a disability as reasons for his interest in a career in vocational counseling. His vocational counselor, who is familiar with his psychosocial and medical history, congratulated Mr. Jones on his academic achievement and suggested he instead consider working part-time in a telehealth capacity.

Compare and contrast The Code of Professional Ethics for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (2023) with the American Counseling Association Code of Professional Ethics (2014) to examine and resolve dilemmas identified in the case study.

Case Study: Mrs. Gonzalez

Mrs. Gonzalez is a 45-year-old female who has been married for 10 years, has two elementary school-aged children, and is the primary caretaker of her children. Her husband has been a truck driver for 15 years and is often away from home due to his work demands. She is currently unemployed but is interested in getting formally trained to be employed as an office manager because her work history includes office clerk for 5 years and lead clerk for 7 years. Mrs. Gonzalez stopped working a year ago due to alcohol use disorder and a depressive disorder that interfered with her job performance. Additionally, legal history includes one DWI from 2 years ago. She is currently seeing a professional counselor two times a month and is 6 months sober, attending a peer support recovery group once a month. From the advice of a family member, Mrs. Gonzalez scheduled an appointment with state VR services to determine eligibility for vocational services.

*Use the rehabilitation psychology value-laden beliefs and principles by Beatrice A. Wright (1972), to examine which beliefs and principles apply to the case study. Discuss which beliefs and principles present as the **least** and **most** challenging for you & why?*

References

- Wright, B. A. (1972). Value-laden beliefs and principles for rehabilitation psychology. *Rehabilitation Psychology, 19*(1), 38-45. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0090869>