



Iowa Board
of Certification

Code of Ethics: Counselors



CODE OF ETHICS

FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELORS (tCADC, CADC, IADC, IAADC)

INTRODUCTION

All counselors must subscribe to the IBC Code of Ethics upon application for certification. This Code of Ethics is adopted to aid in the delivery of the highest quality of professional care to persons seeking chemical dependency services. It is hoped that these standards will assist the counselor to determine the propriety of his or her conduct in relationships with clients, colleagues, members of allied professions, and the public.

The Board is committed to investigate and sanction those who breach this Code of Ethics. Alcohol and drug counselors, therefore, are encouraged to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the Code of Ethics and to guide their behavior according to the principles set forth below.

Violation of the IBC Code of Ethics shall be deemed as grounds for discipline. Engaging in unethical conduct includes, in addition to violation of the Principles enumerated herein, any other violation that is harmful or detrimental to the profession or to the public.

SUBSCRIPTION TO CODE OF ETHICS

Persons applying for certification must subscribe to the Iowa Board of Certification's Code of Ethics for Alcohol and Drug Counselors and so indicate by signing Form 02. This subscription will be in effect until their certification is no longer valid. In the event the applicant did not successfully complete the certification process, the subscription shall be in effect until the application period expires.

SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLE I. Responsibility to clients. Alcohol and drug counselors respect the rights of those persons seeking their assistance and make reasonable efforts to ensure that their services are used appropriately.

- A. Alcohol and drug counselors do not discriminate against or refuse professional service to anyone on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.
 - 1. Alcohol and drug counselors avoid bringing personal or professional issues into the counseling relationship. Through an awareness of the impact of stereotyping and discrimination, the counselor guards the individual rights and personal dignity of clients.
 - 2. Alcohol and drug counselors are knowledgeable about disabling conditions, demonstrate empathy and personal emotional comfort in interactions with clients with disabilities, and make available physical, sensory, and cognitive accommodations that allow clients with disabilities to receive services.
- B. Alcohol and drug counselors do not use their professional relationships with clients to further their own interests, including but not limited to increasing sessions to meet quotas or postponing discharge.
- C. Alcohol and drug counselors respect the right of clients to make decisions and help them to understand the consequences of these decisions.

- D. Alcohol and drug counselors continue therapeutic relationships only as long as it is reasonably clear that clients are benefiting from the relationship.
- E. Alcohol and drug counselors assist persons in obtaining other therapeutic services if the counselor is unable or unwilling to provide professional help.
- F. Alcohol and drug counselors do not willfully terminate the therapeutic relationship without making reasonable arrangements for the continuation of such treatment.
- G. Alcohol and drug counselors obtain written, informed consent from clients before videotaping, audio recording, or permitting third-party observation.
- H. Alcohol and drug counselors respect the integrity and protect the welfare of the client. The counselor, in the presence of professional conflict, is concerned primarily with the welfare of the client.
- I. Alcohol and drug counselors ensure the presence of an appropriate setting for clinical work to protect the client from harm and the counselor and professional from censure.
- J. Alcohol and drug counselors do not continue to practice while having a physical or mental disability which renders the counselor unable to practice the occupation or profession with reasonable skill or which may endanger the health and safety of the persons under the counselor's care.
- K. Alcohol and drug counselors do not engage in the conduct of one's practice while suffering from a contagious disease involving risk to the client's or public's health without taking adequate precautions including, but not limited to, informed consent, protective gear or cessation of practice.

PRINCIPLE II. Dual relationships.

- A. Alcohol and drug counselors are aware of their influential position with respect to clients, and they avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of such persons. Counselors, therefore, make every effort to avoid dual relationships with clients that could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation. When a dual relationship cannot be avoided, counselors take appropriate professional precautions to ensure judgment is not impaired and no exploitation occurs, and consults with a supervisor or certified counselor prior to entering into a dual relationship.

Examples of such dual relationships include, but are not limited to, business or close personal relationships with clients and/or their family members, contact with clients on personal time, or knowingly entering into a personal/business relationship with a client.

- 1. Soliciting and/or engaging in personal relationships, including but not limited to romantic/sexual contact with clients and/or their natural supports is prohibited; this includes the five years following the termination of services. This prohibition applies to both in-person and electronic interactions or relationships (including social media).
- 2. Alcohol and drug counselors never accept as clients their personal family members, close friends or anyone with whom they have engaged in romantic/sexual conduct. This prohibition applies to both in-person and electronic interactions or relationships.

3. Alcohol and drug counselors are aware of their professionalism and healthy boundaries with clients when it comes to social networking for at least a period of five years following the termination of services.
 - a. In instances where a relationship is initiated through the workplace, relationships on social media should not be initiated for at least five years after the client is discharged. Alcohol and drug counselors do not provide their personal social media names or handles, or interact with their clients past or present, on social media.
 - b. Alcohol and drug counselors do not provide their personal contact information to clients, i.e. home/personal cell phone number, personal email, etc. nor engage in communication with clients through these mediums except in cases of agency/professional business.

PRINCIPLE III. Confidentiality. Alcohol and drug counselors embrace, as primary obligation, the duty of protecting the privacy of clients and do not disclose confidential information acquired in teaching, practice or investigation without appropriately executed consent. Any exception to this would adhere to Federal, State and local laws.

- A. Alcohol and drug counselors make appropriate provisions for the maintenance of confidentiality and the ultimate disposition of confidential records. Counselors ensure that data obtained, including any form of electronic communication, are secured by the available security methodology. Data shall be limited to information that is necessary to and appropriate to the services being provided and be accessible only to appropriate personnel.
- B. Alcohol and drug counselors discuss the information obtained in clinical, consulting, or observational relationships only in the appropriate settings for professional purposes that are in the client's best interest. Written and oral reports present only data germane and pursuant to the purpose of evaluation, diagnosis, progress, and compliance. Every effort is made to avoid undue invasion of privacy.
- C. Alcohol and drug counselors reveal information received in confidence only when there is a clear and imminent danger to the client or other persons, or in situations requiring mandatory reporting, and then only to appropriate workers and/or public authorities.

PRINCIPLE IV. Professional competence and integrity. Alcohol and drug counselors maintain high standards of professional competence and integrity.

- A. Alcohol and drug counselors seek appropriate professional assistance for their personal problems or conflicts that may impair work performance or clinical judgment.
- B. Alcohol and drug counselors, as teachers, supervisors, and researchers, are dedicated to high standards of scholarship and present accurate information.
- C. Alcohol and drug counselors do not engage in sexual or other harassment or exploitation of clients, family of clients, students, trainees, supervisees, employees, colleagues, or research subjects.
- D. Alcohol and drug counselors do not engage in conduct which does not meet the generally accepted standards of practice for the alcohol and drug profession including, but not limited to, incompetence, negligence or malpractice, including but not limited to:

1. Falsifying or making incorrect essential entries or failing to make essential entries of client record.
 2. A substantial deviation from the standards of skill ordinarily possessed and applied by professional peers in the state of Iowa acting in the same or similar circumstances, either knowingly or unknowingly.
 3. Acting in such a manner as to present a danger to public health or safety, or to any client including, but not limited to, impaired behavior, incompetence, negligence or malpractice.
 4. Failing to comply with a term, condition or limitation on a certification or license.
 5. Diagnosing, treating, or advising on problems outside the recognized boundaries of their competence.
 6. Failing to obtain an appropriate consultation or make an appropriate referral when the problem of the client is beyond the alcohol and drug counselor's training, experience or competence.
 7. Failing to notify IBC of a suspension, revocation, probation or other restrictions on any professional certification or licensure imposed by any state or jurisdiction, unless such action has been satisfied and/or reversed.
 8. Administering to oneself any controlled substance in a way other than as prescribed, or using any drug or alcoholic beverage to the extent or in such manner as to be dangerous or injurious to self or others, or to the extent that such use impairs the ability of such person to safely provide professional services.
 9. Using alcohol or any dangerous drug or controlled substance while providing professional services.
 10. Aiding and abetting the use of any unprescribed controlled substance by another person.
 11. Providing alcohol for a client or anyone who cannot legally use alcohol.
 12. Refusing to seek evaluation and follow through with the recommended treatment for chemical dependency or a mental health problem which impairs professional performance.
- E. Alcohol and drug counselors who provide services via electronic media shall inform the client/patient of the limitations and risks associated with such services and shall document in the client/patient case record that such notice has been provided.
- F. Alcohol and drug counselors use professional and ethical judgment when including photos and/or comments on social media sites.

PRINCIPLE V. Responsibility to students, employees, and supervisees. Alcohol and drug counselors do not exploit the trust and dependency of students, employees, and supervisees. Alcohol and drug counselors are aware of their influential position with respect to students, employees, and supervisees, and they avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of such persons. Counselors, therefore, make every effort to avoid dual relationships that could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation. When a dual relationship cannot be avoided, counselors take appropriate professional precautions to ensure judgment is not impaired and no exploitation occurs. Examples of such dual relationships include, but are not limited to, business or close personal relationships with students, employees or supervisees

- A. Alcohol and drug counselors do not permit students, employees, or supervisees to perform or to hold themselves out as competent to perform professional services beyond their training, level of experience and competence.

- B. Alcohol and drug counselors who supervise others accept the obligation to facilitate further professional development of these individuals by providing accurate and current information, timely evaluations, and constructive consultation.
- C. Provision of therapy to students, employees, or supervisees is prohibited until a minimum of one year after the professional relationship/obligation is terminated.
- D. Sexual conduct with students or supervisees is prohibited until a minimum of one year after the professional relationship/obligation is terminated.

PRINCIPLE VI. Responsibility to the profession. Counselors respect the rights and responsibilities of professional colleagues.

- A. Counselors treat others with respect, courtesy, and fairness.
 - 1. Alcohol and drug counselors do not offer professional services to a client in counseling with another professional except with the knowledge of the other professional or after the termination of the client's relationship with the other professional.
 - 2. Alcohol and drug counselors cooperate with duly constituted professional ethics committees and promptly supply necessary information unless constrained by the demands of confidentiality.
 - 3. Alcohol and drug counselors report the unethical conduct or practice of others in the profession to the appropriate certifying authority.
 - 4. Alcohol and drug counselors do not knowingly file a false report against another professional concerning an ethics violation.
- B. As employees or members of organizations, alcohol and drug counselors refuse to knowingly participate in an employer's practices which are inconsistent with the ethical standards enumerated in this Code, and have a duty to report said practices to the appropriate licensure or accreditation body.
- C. Alcohol and drug counselors assign publication credit to those who have contributed to a publication as appropriate.
- D. Alcohol and drug counselors who are the authors of books or other materials that are published or distributed cite persons to whom credit for original ideas is due.

PRINCIPLE VII. Financial arrangements. Alcohol and drug counselors make financial arrangements for services with clients and third-party payers that are reasonably understandable and conform to accepted professional practices.

- A. Alcohol and drug counselors do not offer, give or receive commissions, rebates or other forms of compensation for the referral of clients.
- B. Alcohol and drug counselors do not charge excessive fees for services based upon current local rates.
- C. Alcohol and drug counselors disclose their fees to clients prior to the delivery of services.
- D. Alcohol and drug counselors do not enter into personal financial arrangements with clients.
- E. Alcohol and drug counselors represent facts truthfully to clients and third-party payers, regarding services rendered.

- F. Alcohol and drug counselors do not accept a private fee or any other gift or gratuity for professional work.
- G. Alcohol and drug counselors do not accept gifts from clients except in cases where refusal of such gifts would be damaging to the therapeutic relationship. When possible, consultation with a supervisor or certified counselor should be sought prior to accepting a gift.

PRINCIPLE VIII. Advertising. Alcohol and drug counselors engage in appropriate informational activities, including those that enable lay persons to choose professional services on an informed basis.

- A. Alcohol and drug counselors accurately represent their credential, competence, education, training, and experience.
- B. Alcohol and drug counselors do not use a firm name, letterhead, publication, term, title designation or document which states or implies an ability, relationship or qualification which the counselor does not have.
- C. Alcohol and drug counselors do not use any professional identification (such as a business card, office sign, letterhead, or telephone or association directory listing) if it includes a statement or claim that is false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive. A statement is false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive if it:
 - 1. contains a material misrepresentation of fact which is likely to create an unrealistic expectation; or
 - 2. omits pertinent facts.

PRINCIPLE IX. Legal and Conduct Standards of Behavior. Alcohol and drug counselors uphold the law and have high standards in both professional and personal conduct.

Grounds for discipline under this principle include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Conviction of any felony or misdemeanor, excluding minor traffic offenses, whether or not the case is pending an appeal. A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following an Alford Plea, or any other plea which is treated by the court as a plea of guilty and all the proceedings in which the sentence was deferred or suspended, or the conviction expunged shall be deemed a conviction within the meaning of this section.
- 2. Permitting, aiding, abetting, assisting, hiring or conspiring with an individual to violate or circumvent any of the laws relating to licensure or certification under any licensing or certification act.
- 3. Fraud-related conduct under this principle includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Publishing or causing to be published any advertisement that is false, fraudulent, deceptive or misleading.
 - b. Engaging in fraud, misrepresentation, deception or concealment of material fact in applying for certification or certification renewal.
 - c. Failing to cooperate with a board investigation in any material respect which includes but is not limited to:

- i. interfering with an investigation or disciplinary proceeding by willful misrepresentation of facts before the disciplining authority or its authorized representatives;
 - ii. by use of threats or harassment against, or inducement to any patient, client or witness to prevent them from providing evidence in a disciplinary proceeding
 - iii. by use of threats or harassment against any person to prevent or attempt to prevent a disciplinary proceeding or other legal action from being filed, prosecuted or completed.
 - d. Committing a fraudulent insurance act.
 - e. Signing or issuing, in the certified alcohol and drug counselor's capacity, a document or statement that the counselor knows, or ought to know, contains a false or misleading statement.
 - f. Practicing the profession under a false name or name other than the name under which the certification is held.
 - g. Impersonating any certified professional or representing oneself as a certified professional for which one has no current certification.
 - h. Charging a client or a third party payer for a service not performed, or submitting an account or charge for services that is false or misleading. This does not apply to charging for an unkept appointment by a client.
 - i. Offering, giving or promising anything of value or benefit to any federal, state, or local employee or official for the purpose of influencing that employee or official to circumvent federal, state, or local law, regulation or ordinance governing the certified counselor or the alcohol and drug profession.
4. Engaging in sexual conduct, as defined in the Iowa Code, with a client during a period of time in which a professional relationship exists and for five years after that period of time.

INVESTIGATION

Complaint Procedure. Any individual may file a complaint against a certified professional by submitting a completed "Ethics Violation Allegation Worksheet" (available on IBC's web site at www.iowabc.org).

1. The Ethics Violation Allegation Worksheet shall be submitted to:

Executive Director
Iowa Board of Certification
2600 Grand Ave, Suite 114
Des Moines, IA 50312
Email: INFO@iowabc.org
2. A copy of the Worksheet is forwarded to the Ethics & Appeals Committee chairperson.
3. The Ethics Committee, at their next monthly meeting, determines which principle(s) may have been violated.
4. If a potential violation has been determined, an investigator is assigned and the investigation is started.
5. If, in committee review, the allegation does not warrant assignment of an investigation, the complainant and the person who is alleged to have violated the principle will be notified of that decision. The allegation worksheet will be maintained in a committee file.

6. The Executive Director sends a certified letter to the respondent, notifying him/her that a complaint has been received, that an investigation has begun, and that he/she will be sent correspondence by the investigator. **Note: not cooperating with an investigation can result in a violation of Principle VI-A-2.**
7. The Executive Director shall send a certified letter to the complainant stating that the investigation has begun and that the investigator may be in contact with him/her.
8. When the investigation is completed, the investigator will report to the Ethics Committee. The committee shall review the information and make one of the following recommendations to the hearing panel:
 - a. Disciplinary hearing be held, or
 - b. Dismiss the complaint
9. Following the hearing, the respondent and complainant are notified in writing of the actions taken by the Board.

Should further violations be uncovered in the course of an investigation, these would comprise an additional complaint by the Committee on Ethics and Appeals.

If a complaint has been filed, the Ethics Committee may, at its discretion, proceed with an investigation even if the complainant subsequently requests that the complaint be withdrawn.

HEARING PROCEDURES

Order for Hearing. Upon recommendation of the Committee on Ethics and Appeals, the IBC Board shall approve the date, time and place for an ethics hearing and shall appoint a hearing panel for the proceedings. A written notice of hearing will be sent to the complainant and the respondent at least 21 days prior to the hearing date.

- A. The hearing panel shall be comprised of three directors of the Board, excluding any member having a conflict of interest in the matter. At least one of the three members of the hearing panel shall be a certified professional.
- B. Both the respondent and complainant will be provided with a copy of the investigator's report and the hearing procedures.
- C. The notice of the hearing shall state:
 - a. The date, time, and location of the hearing; and
 - b. The respondent may, at his or her expense, be represented by legal counsel at the hearing; and
 - c. The rules by which the hearing shall be governed.

A hearing may only be postponed at the discretion of the hearing panel chair and/or the IBC Executive Director.

Conduct of Hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in compliance with the following rules:

- A. The hearing shall be conducted by the hearing chair as assigned by the Executive Director, an impartial administrative law judge, attorney, or other person designated by the Board.
- B. The investigator, IBC's Executive Director, or a designated representative shall present evidence in support of the Committee's recommendation before the hearing panel. The complainant and the respondent shall be allowed the opportunity to participate in the hearing. Witnesses will be called

when appropriate, but shall only be present in the hearing during their testimony. The hearing shall be closed to the public.

- C. The hearing panel shall not be bound by common law or statutory rules of evidence, and may consider all evidence having probative value.
- D. No discovery shall be permitted and no access to Board files shall be allowed by the respondent except as specifically provided for herein. The Board shall keep all files in permanent form and confidential, unless otherwise provided or directed in writing by the President of the Board or the President's designee, for disciplinary purposes or by a specific rule of the IBC Board.
- E. After completion of the investigation and prior to the commencement of the hearing, members of the Board and hearing panel shall not discuss the case with either the complainant or the respondent in order to maintain neutrality and impartiality. The Executive Director may act as a source of general information to all parties.
- F. Members of the hearing panel may inquire and/or conduct relevant fact-finding to obtain the information necessary to make an accurate determination of the facts of the case. If additional violations are discovered during the hearing, it may result in additional sanctions.
- G. Board members and committee members who are not serving in an official capacity during the hearing shall not be present unless all parties present agree to such circumstances.
- H. A member of the IBC staff shall be responsible for record keeping at the hearing.
- I. The hearing shall be recorded.

Failure by Respondent to Appear. If a respondent, upon whom proper notice of hearing has been served, fails to appear either in person or represented by counsel at the hearing or otherwise respond to the complaint, the respondent shall be deemed to be at default and bound by the results of the hearing to the same extent as if the respondent had been present.

Right to Waive Hearing. At any time during the ethics investigation process, a respondent has the right to waive an ethics hearing by formal notification in written form with an original signature to IBC. ***In so doing, the respondent stipulates that the allegations of the ethics violation(s) are correct.*** As soon as practical, but no later than 90 days upon receipt of the waiver or scheduled hearing date, the Board shall determine any disciplinary sanctions. The decision of the Board shall be final and no appeal may be filed.

Deliberation of the Hearing Panel. Once the chairperson of the Committee on Ethics and Appeals or a representative designee has presented the case information, the complainant and the respondent have had an opportunity to speak, and the hearing panel has asked any questions, the hearing panel will meet in closed session to discuss the facts. A member of the IBC staff will be present during the deliberation. All panel deliberations will be recorded.

Decision of the Hearing Panel. The hearing panel shall make the determination regarding violation(s) and disciplinary sanctions as founded, substantiated, unsubstantiated or unfounded.

Upon conclusion of the hearing, the hearing panel chair shall submit a written report to the IBC office which shall include:

1. A concise statement of the findings of fact;
2. A conclusion as to whether any specific Principles have been substantiated, undetermined or unsubstantiated; and
3. The sanctions, if any, imposed by the Panel.

The hearing panel's decision and the official hearing panel report shall be sent within 30 days by certified mail to both the respondent and the complainant and include information on how an appeal may be requested.

Discretion of the Hearing Panel. The following factors may be considered by the hearing panel in determining the nature and severity of the disciplinary sanction to be recommended:

1. The relative seriousness of the violation as it relates to assuring the citizens of this state a high standard of professional service and care;
2. The facts of the particular violation;
3. Any extenuating circumstances or other counter-vailing considerations;
4. The number of complaints;
5. Prior violations or complaints and/or sanctions;
6. Whether the violation was self-reported;
7. Whether remedial action has previously been taken;
8. The level of cooperation from the respondent; and
9. Other factors which may reflect upon the competency, ethical standards and professional conduct of the individual.

Method of Discipline. The hearing panel may impose the following disciplinary sanctions:

1. Temporary revocation or permanent revocation; or
2. Suspension of certification or application privileges; or
3. Denial of an application for certification;
4. Reprimand; or
5. Other sanctions which may be deemed appropriate, such as additional education, training, supervision, competency demonstration, assessment and completion of any recommendations resulting from the assessment and/or other additional requirements in conjunction with any of the above disciplinary sanctions.

Announcement of Decision. At its next scheduled regular meeting, the Board shall be notified of the hearing panel's decision. The decision and the official hearing panel report shall be sent by certified mail to both the respondent and the complainant and include information on how an appeal may be requested.

Confidentiality. At no time prior to the release of the decision by the hearing panel shall any portion or the whole thereof of any action be made public or be distributed to any persons other than the directors of the Board, its Committee on Ethics and Appeals, and its staff.

Publication of Decisions. The decision in any disciplinary proceeding shall be published in whatever manner deemed appropriate by the Board. The employer, if any, shall be notified by certified mail of the final decision of the Board if a violation was founded. IBC may report a disciplinary action against certified professionals to the Iowa Department of Public Health-Division of Health Promotion, Prevention and Addictive Behaviors.

Failure to Comply with Sanctions. Failure to comply with hearing panel sanctions by the date mandated in the hearing report shall result in failure by the sanctioned individual to recertify or to apply for any of IBC's credentials after that date. Extensions for meeting sanctions will not be granted absent verifiable extenuating circumstances as determined by a hearing panel.

PROCEDURES AND REINSTATEMENT FOLLOWING DISCIPLINARY SANCTION(S)

Repossession of Certificate. If a respondent's IBC credential has been suspended, denied, or revoked, the respondent must return his or her certificate to IBC no later than twenty-one (21) days after he or she receives notice of the suspension, denial, or revocation. The IBC certificate remains the property of IBC. Failure to return the certificate as required may result in additional sanctions.

Reinstatement Following a Suspension. Upon expiration of the suspension period, the Board shall authorize reinstatement of the professional's credential for the balance of his or her certification period, unless:

1. The respondent did not submit a letter of application for reinstatement or the letter did not present facts which, if established, would be sufficient to enable the Board to determine that the basis for sanction no longer exists;
2. Another suspension or revocation of the respondent's certification has occurred;
3. The respondent has committed another violation of the Code of Ethics;
4. The respondent has failed to remit the recertification fees or make an application for recertification in a timely manner; or
5. The respondent has failed to comply fully with the terms of his or her suspension.

Possible Consideration Following Revocation. It is recognized that there may be mitigating circumstances which could warrant granting permission to apply for certification following revocation. This does not apply to a permanent revocation sanction.

1. Permission to apply for certification following revocation may be considered only after two years have lapsed from the date of the Board's final decision.
2. The request for permission to apply for certification shall be initiated by the respondent. The request shall present facts which, if established, would be sufficient to enable the Board to determine that the basis for sanction no longer exists.
3. Permission to seek certification following revocation is granted solely within the discretion of the Board.

Permanent Revocation. Permanent revocation of certification or application privileges shall be construed as lasting a lifetime without the possibility for reinstatement.

APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF HEARING PANEL

Notice of Right to Appeal. The respondent has the right to appeal the hearing panel's decision. The IBC office shall provide notice to the respondent that he or she may file an appeal of the hearing panel's decision.

Filing of Appeal. Appeals must be postmarked or personally delivered to IBC within thirty (30) days of receiving the certified notice of the hearing panel's decision. Appeals shall be addressed to:

Executive Director
Iowa Board of Certification
2600 Grand Ave, Suite 114
Des Moines, IA 50312

Administrative Fee for Appeals. A non-refundable administrative fee must be submitted to IBC with the party's written appeal.

Content of Appeal. The appeal shall contain the following information.

1. Name, address, and telephone number of appealing party;
2. A written statement of the reasons supporting the appealing party's dissatisfaction with the hearing panel's decision;
3. A statement of the relief desired by the appealing party;
4. Copies of all relevant documents;
5. Signature of the appealing party.

Review and Adjudication of Appeal. The Directors of the Board, excluding any member having a conflict of interest in the matter, will review the case within 75 days of receipt of the request for appeal. The original hearing panel members may participate in the review with at least one member representing the hearing panel's decision.

Review of the appeal shall include review of the written appeal, any relevant documents submitted for purposes of the appeal, and transcripts of the hearing panel proceedings.

The Board shall make the determination to do one of the following.

1. Uphold the decision of the hearing panel;
2. Overturn or otherwise alter the decision of the hearing panel; or
3. Recommend a new hearing.

Final Decision. If no request for an appeal is made within the required time frame stated above, the decision of the hearing panel shall be final. Once the appeal process is completed, the decision of the Board shall be final.

Respondents who waive their right to a hearing also waive their right to appeal the sanctions determined by the board.