

Psy332 Notes

L7: Ethical Issues in Psychological Assessment

Why is a Code of Conduct Necessary?

To safeguard:

- The welfare of those who use psychological services
- The integrity of the profession

(COC includes general principles + ethical standards that psychologists must adhere to)

APS Code of Ethics

3 general ethical principles:

1. Respect for the rights and dignity of people/ peoples
2. Propriety (*appropriate*)
3. Integrity

(a) Respect: Justice, respect, informed consent, privacy, confidentiality, release of information to clients, collection of client information from associated parties

Justice: About 'discrimination/ bias' in use of psychological testing (*eg: language*)

-Is test relevant to culturally/ linguistically diverse clients? Appropriate? If translated, still cultural diffs?

Informed Consent

1. The purpose of the psychological assessment
2. What is involved
3. To whom any client information will be disclosed
4. How reports will be stored

Confidentiality

-Psychological assessment information is used only for the purposes for which it was first collected, and for which consent was obtained from the client being assessed

-If assessment results are to be used for a secondary purpose, psychologists obtain consent from the client prior to commencing the assessment

(b) Propriety

-Psychologists ensure that they are competent to deliver the psychological services they provide

-They provide psychological service to benefit and not to harm

-Psychologists seek to protect the interests of the people/ peoples with whom they work

-The welfare of clients and the public, and the standing of the profession, take precedence over a psychologist's self-interest

B1: Competence: Need for assessment, sound assessment procedures/ scoring, consider results in context of client, effectively communicate, sound recommendations/ decisions