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Professional Certificate in Trauma Psychology

## Ethical and Legal Issues in Trauma Psychology.

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**\*\*Avoidance:\*\*** A common symptom of PTSD, where an individual deliberately avoids people, places, or situations that remind them of their traumatic experience.

**\*\*Confidentiality:\*\*** A legal and ethical obligation of psychologists to protect their clients' personal and medical information, only disclosing it with the client's consent or when required by law.

**\*\*Consent:\*\*** The process of obtaining permission from a competent individual to perform a specific action or provide treatment, typically through clear communication and understanding.

**\*\*Dissociation:\*\*** A psychological state in which an individual becomes detached from their thoughts, feelings, and memories, often as a coping mechanism for trauma.

**\*\*Dual Agency:\*\*** A situation where a psychologist represents both the best interests of their client and a third party, such as an employer or insurance company, potentially creating a conflict of interest.

**\*\*Duty to Warn:\*\*** A legal and ethical obligation of psychologists to protect third parties from harm if their client has communicated a serious threat of violence against them.

**\*\*Ethical Code:\*\*** A set of principles and guidelines that outline the ethical behavior and decision-making of professionals in a specific field, such as psychology.

**\*\*Informed Consent:\*\*** A type of consent that is obtained after the individual has been fully informed of the potential benefits, risks, and alternatives of a proposed treatment or action.

**\*\*Malpractice:\*\*** Professional misconduct or negligence that results in harm to a client, potentially leading to legal action.

**\*\*Negligence:\*\*** The failure to exercise the level of care, skill, and diligence that a reasonable and prudent professional would have exercised under similar circumstances.

**\*\*Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):\*\*** A mental health disorder that can occur after an individual experiences or witnesses a traumatic event, such as combat, sexual assault, or a natural disaster.

**\*\*Privileged Communication:\*\*** A legal principle that protects the confidentiality of certain communications between a psychologist and their client, preventing their disclosure in court without the client's consent.

**\*\*Secondary Trauma:\*\*** The emotional and psychological impact on a person who has been exposed to the traumatic experiences of another, often through their work as a mental health professional.

**\*\*Standard of Care:\*\*** The level of care, skill, and diligence that a reasonable and prudent professional would have exercised under similar circumstances, used as a benchmark in malpractice cases.

**\*\*Trauma:\*\*** An emotional and psychological response to a distressing or disturbing event, such as abuse, neglect, or violence.

**\*\*Trauma-Informed Care:\*\*** A holistic approach to mental health treatment that considers the impact of trauma on an individual's thoughts, feelings, and behavior, and seeks to avoid re-traumatization.

**\*\*Vicarious Trauma:\*\*** The cumulative emotional and psychological impact on a person who has repeatedly been exposed to the traumatic experiences of others, potentially leading to changes in their own thoughts, feelings, and behavior.

**\*\*Whistleblowing:\*\*** The act of reporting illegal or unethical behavior within an organization, often at great personal risk, to protect the public interest.