



International Association of Trauma Recovery Coaching

Executive Director: Bobbi L. Parish, MA, CTRC-S

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ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

All Trauma Recovery Coaches certified through the International Association of Trauma Recovery Coaching must ascribe to the following ethical standards.

Scope of coaching practice:

- Trauma Recovery Coaches do not work with clients who are engaged in behavior that puts their physical safety at risk, such as: active alcohol and drug addiction, active and significant self-harming behavior, active suicidal ideation.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches do not have sessions with clients who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Coaches must reschedule clients in that situation and address the drug or alcohol issue at a subsequent session.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches always provide trauma informed services.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches do not offer services to clients who require assistance with issues outside of the coach's scope of competence.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches seek professional supervision from a qualified Supervisor when they encounter issues in their practice that they are not fully competent to handle.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches do not diagnose or assess mental health issues, nor do they give advice about the diagnoses a client has already received or receives during coaching.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches do not provide advice about psychotropic medication.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches do not work with minors, unless they have training or experience outside of this program.

Confidentiality:

- Trauma Recovery Coaches provide their services with complete confidentiality. Coaches do not disclose their work with any clients, client records or any client information to anyone without a written consent from their client or a court ordered subpoena.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches keep accurate, detailed records of their work with clients. They store those records in such a way that does not allow access to them by anyone other than the Coach themselves. This includes both written documents and online data.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches *voluntarily* serve as Mandatory Reporters. They ALWAYS report current and ongoing abuse to minors, the disabled and elders to the appropriate local agencies.

Practice standards:

- Establishing a power differential in a coaching relationship is unethical. Trauma Recovery Coaches work with clients as peers and equals.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches treat their clients, as well as their client's time and money, with respect.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches do not discriminate against any race, gender, social class, gender identity or religious belief. Trauma Recovery Coaches respect their client's views, ideals and beliefs.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches set goals with their clients that reflect their client's needs and wishes, not those of the coach.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches do not allow clients who are significantly triggered and unsafe to leave sessions.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches set boundaries with their clients that facilitate the development of their relationship with their clients in sessions and adjunctive healing activities such as support groups. Boundaries are set that neither promote or accept interactions outside of coaching activities. Specifically, Trauma Recovery Coaches do not engage in romantic or sexual relationships or financial dealings with clients.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches do not refer their clients to services that they have not personally vetted.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches do not abandon their clients in any manner. If they must stop their coaching practice or release any clients they must do so with an explanation and a referral to other coaching providers.

- Trauma Recovery Coaches keep up-to-date with research and methodology in the field of trauma, trauma recovery and intervention.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches do not conduct sessions while impaired by drugs or alcohol themselves.
- Trauma Recovery Coaches do not use another person's intellectual property without giving/seeking appropriate credit and reference for it.

Professional Standards

If a credentialed coach is charged with a crime involving alcohol or drugs, and/or a crime against persons they must report that charge to Sarah Parish, the chairperson of the Professional Standards Committee, SarahParish@IAOTRC.com, within 10 days. The Committee will meet and decide on a course of action, if one is necessary. The coach will have an opportunity to discuss the charges with the committee.

Possible courses of action are a temporary suspension of a credential or deciding to withhold action until the charges are resolved. If the charges are upheld the coach may have their credential temporarily or permanently revoked, depending upon nature and severity of the crime.

If a coach does not report charges and the Professional Standards Committee becomes aware of them, the coach risks an immediate suspension of their credential and further penalties depending on the nature and severity of the crime.

Trauma Recovery Coaches that have training outside of their initial certification may provide services that are compatible with their level of training. For example, coaches who have counseling or therapy degrees may provide therapeutic interventions.

Should a Certified Trauma Recovery Coach violate these Ethical Standards they are in danger of having their certification revoked temporarily or permanently. If a peer or client wishes to report an ethical violation, they may do so by contacting Sarah Parish, the chairperson of the Association's Professional Standard's Committee, at SarahParish@iaotrc.com. See the Professional Standard's Committee Policies and Procedures attached.