



**Parent Peer Support Specialists are caregivers with lived experience who help parents navigate the child serving system of care in Ohio. They offer support, direction and a non-judgmental ear.**

**Certified Parent Peer Support Specialists are individuals who have received training and taken a test that allows them to assert that they are a certified parent peer support specialist. Some of these individuals work for agencies and some through contracts. All Certified Parent Peer Support Specialists have to follow a Code of Ethics.**

### **Ohio Certified Parent Peer Support Specialists**

#### **Code of Ethics**

**This code of Ethics will guide the Ohio certified PPSS's in their roles, relationships, and professional responsibilities. The primary responsibilities of certified parent peer specialists are to promote the wellbeing of the families with whom they work, to promote family-driven practices that focus on strengths as part of the solution, and to ensure families and youth participate as partners in all aspects of their care.**

#### **As an Ohio certified Parent Peer Support Specialist:**

1. I will ensure that my conduct will not constitute physical or psychological abuse, neglect or exploitation of the families I serve.
2. I will abide by the standards of supervision established by my employer, so long as the supervision is consistent with the Ohio Certified Parent Peer Support Specialist's Core Competencies and this Code of Ethics
3. I will at all times, respect the rights, culture, and dignity of the families I serve.
4. I will respect the privacy and confidentiality of the families I serve. When circumstances- such as an imminent risk to safety- require the disclosure of confidential information, only information that is essential, will be revealed. To the extent possible, families will be informed, before confidential information is disclosed.
5. I will not engage in sexual or any form of intimate activities with any family members I am currently serving, and for a minimum of two years after they are discharged from service.
6. I will neither give nor accept gifts of money or items of significant value from the families I serve.

7. I will not use undue influence, create undue dependence, or make unwarranted promises of benefits.
8. I will not enter in dual relationships or commitments that may conflict with the interests of the families I serve. For example, I will not endeavor to purchase items or property from a member of a family I serve.
9. I will be guided by the knowledge that all individuals have the right to live in the least restrictive and least intrusive environment possible.
10. I will not participate in stigma or the blaming of the families and youths for the challenges, they face.
11. I will act with integrity in all professional relationships.
12. I will seek to resolve philosophical differences with professionals and/or the families I serve in a respectful, fair and honest manner.
13. I will take adequate measures to discourage, prevent, and /or report, following established agency policies, the unethical conduct of colleagues.
14. I will act in a manner to create and maintain safety for myself, and the families I serve.
15. I will provide services consistent with the Ohio Certified Parent Peer Support specialists /core Competencies in effect at the time the services are provided.

**In the event that you believe that a PPS has violated ethics or boundaries, you may file a complaint. Complaints can be filed using this form.**

**All complaints are reviewed by NAMI Ohio staff and members of the Parent Peer Support Advisory committee.**

**If a complaint warrants an investigation, NAMI staff and the committee will begin the process of investigation.**

**NAMI Ohio will respond to your complaint letter within 10 business days from the date we receive the complaint.**

**An investigation into your complaint can take up to an additional 30 business days.**

## Levels of Discipline and Consequences

1. Providing monitoring and coaching to the PPS as well as support in an effort to correct past errors and set them on a better path.
2. Probation: Putting the PPSS on probation for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months. During probation, the PPSS will be required to attend additional training as specified by the Disciplinary committee. If an individual completes the training and other obligations during the probationary period, they may be fully reinstated. In the event an individual does not, they will not receive their certification back. They can reapply after a 1-year period.
3. Revocation of certification for a period of 1 to 3 years. If certification is revoked, the individuals must start the recertification process from the beginning after their disciplinary time period is up. This includes taking the CPPSS exam again.

Please Fill out the complete complaint form and send it to:

CPPSS/ NAMI Ohio  
1225 Dublin Road  
Suite 125  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Or email to:

[cppss@namiohio.org](mailto:cppss@namiohio.org)

