

Ethical in Trying Times – and Loving it!

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Encounters with ethical challenges are faced by all therapists. However, due to the nature of clinical work with people who commit sexual offences, ethical problem solving poses unique challenges compared to many specialists. Dealing with the duty to warn, mandated clients, involuntary clients, and limits to confidentiality are common ethical challenges within our work. There are additional challenges that arise. For example, it is sometimes difficult to identify “who is the client”. Is it the person in front of us or the victim, or society? Maintaining respect for the dignity of clients who have harmed others is difficult at times. Another challenge arises when we try to determine if the work we do has validity from an evidence-based practice perspective. It is this challenging climate that actually draws many of us who practice in this area. Ours is an interesting and exciting field. To be competent in our work requires that we have competency within our specialized area of practice AND a high level of ethical competency. This presentation will present a multidisciplinary view of professional ethics that supports effective and efficient forensic practice. We will move beyond discussions of specific Codes of Ethics to discuss the principles of competent ethical practice. The workshop format will be interactive and give participants the opportunity to engage in a discussion that will increase their ethical mindfulness and ethical resiliency.