



**Qualified Applied Behavior Analysis Credentialing Board®**

# **CANDIDATE HANDBOOK**

**Qualified Behavior Analyst  
(QBA®)**

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## **QABA PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Qualified Applied Behavior Analysis Credentialing Board is to ensure the competency of professionals who provide therapeutic intervention for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities. Through credentialing, the Qualified Applied Behavior Analysis Credentialing Board strives to be the standard-bearer for providers at all levels of applied behavior analysis. Additionally, our goal is to improve coordination between providers, families, and insurers to establish seamless delivery of effective therapeutic services.

## **QABA VALUES**

We uphold the highest standards of effective behavioral interventions by adhering to our core values:

- To work with a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, appreciating diversity among all stakeholders;
- To act ethically and honestly toward our certificants, colleagues and community;
- To uphold quality and excellence in service to our professionals.
- To improve the lives of individuals with ASD (autism spectrum disorder) and related disabilities by increasing the availability of qualified behavioral analysts.

## **QABA CREDENTIALS**

The QABA Board credentials provide 3-tiers of behavior analytic support. This 3-tiered model is unique among credentialing boards. The 3 tiers include:

- The ABAT is an entry-level interventionist who typically serves as direct care one-to-one instructors.
- The QASP-S is a mid-tier interventionist who serves as an experienced instructor and may also provide training to staff/families, monitor the progress of goals and objectives, and provide supervision to entry-level staff.
- QBAs are mastery level interventionists who provide ABA program oversight, supervision, assessment, analysis of data, goal development, and other aspects of treatment and ethical integrity.

## **QBA CREDENTIAL**

The QBA credential certifies that certificants have demonstrated master's-level achievement in applied behavior analysis or a related health service profession, advanced applied skills through supervised fieldwork experience, professional integrity and decision-making maturity through supervisor recommendation, and competency in subject matter including autism and ABA and ethical/legal standards have been assessed through written examination.

The purpose of the exam is to test the knowledge, skills, and abilities in competency of professionals who provide supervision and therapeutic intervention for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities; to determine if a candidate demonstrates full competence/qualification as a professional (to protect the safety and welfare of the public).

## **Supervision Requirements**



For the first 1500 hours of fieldwork, the QBA is required to meet with his or her supervisor for 5% of the time they provide behavior analytic services every 1-month period. Supervision can be accrued after attending the first course in the Master's program. Supervision can be done remotely, using a HIPAA compliant video conferencing program; however, one contact must be one-to-one in-person or online synchronous for a minimum of 1 hour. Up to 50% of supervision hours may occur in a group setting.

Supervision must be documented using the QABA supervision log and verification form located on the QABA website ([qababoard.com](http://qababoard.com)).

**Approved Supervisors Include:**

- Qualified Behavior Analyst (QBA),
- -Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA), License Psychologist who demonstrates they have ABA within their scope of practice.
- -Behavior Analyst from a nationally accredited certifying body/entity. All supervisors must be in good standing with their perspective boards. They must also have an active and valid certification and/or licensure during the onset and for the duration of the supervision agreement.

Once the QBA has passed the competency exam and have been certified, the QBA does not require ongoing supervision.

## **QBA REQUIREMENTS**

**Candidates must:**

- Pay the \$350 non-refundable application and exam fee (\$225 for the retake fee)
- Possess a minimum of a master's degree from an accredited institution in a related field
- Must have completed 270 hours of approved coursework (18 semester credits), including 8 hours of supervision coursework (master's degree in ABA, Psychology, Special education, or a related field). 20 hrs. of coursework must be in ethics and 20 hours in autism core knowledge.
- 2,000 Hours of Supervised Fieldwork with a minimum of 1,200 hours in the role of oversight or supervision (FBA, reviewing data, training staff or parents, etc.)
- Recommendation from their supervisor
- Background Check Attestation Form completed by the candidate's employer indicating that there have been no changes to the candidate's background.
- Successful passing of the exam proctored by Premier Proctoring.
- Agree to the Code of Ethics and renewal requirements.



- Final review of all eligibility criteria at QABA® Board meeting before formal credentialing.
- Placement on our Public Registry.
- Bi-Annual Renewal required – Verification of required 32 CEs, criminal background check and agreement to code of ethics.

## **Examination**

Prior to accessing the QBA examination, all coursework and training requirements, recommendation, fieldwork and supervision requirements will need to be completed, verified, and approved through the online process. The candidate will have 3 hours to complete the exam. The exam will be proctored by our third-party company, Premier Proctoring.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **For initial application for the QBA, candidates should:**

1. Go to <https://www.qababoard.net/login> The link will request the candidate to log in and upload:
  - 270-hour coursework certificate from an approved provider; or
  - credit from college/university classes as a portion of the required coursework. Send transcripts with the course number circled along with your application; however, be prepared to provide course curriculums or additional information on courses if requested.
  - government issued ID
  - background attestation form completed by the current employer (forms can be printed at [www.qababoard.com/](http://www.qababoard.com/)) or from a third party if the employer does not provide the attestation form
3. Pay the non-refundable application fee, or enter the coupon code provided by your employer
4. Enter the name and email address of your supervisor for both the fieldwork and recommendation requests
5. Once the enrollment application has been reviewed and approved, candidates should schedule their exam using the correct time zone

**It is important that all instructions be carefully followed to avoid invalidating the application process. Candidates must reschedule the exam and pay another fee if there are errors that invalidate the application.**



270 hours of coursework must have the following minimum requirements:

Subject	Hours
Autism Spectrum Disorders	20
Legal, Ethical, Professional considerations	20
Core Principals of ABA	35
Antecedent Interventions	30
Skill Acquisition	40
Behavior Reduction Interventions	30
Data Collection Analysis	30
Assessment	45
Training and Supervision	20
Total	270

**QBA FEES\*:**

Application:	\$3
	50
Renewal:	\$2
	00
Exam retake:	\$2
	25

\*Those residing in developing nations may be eligible for reduced fees.

**EXAM PROCESS**

Online testing is convenient and allows for a quiet and easy examination experience. **Please read all**

**of the testing rules and requirements beforehand** to ensure that the entire process goes smoothly. The exam is live-proctored by our independent partner Premier Proctoring to ensure that the online test is fair and valid.

**Premier Proctoring's software works on most modern desktop or laptop computers (Tablets are not compatible) with a webcam and microphone. A secure and high-speed internet connection is vital to exam navigation.** There will be a speed test prior to the exam to check the candidate's technology.

Testing Rules:

- ✓ must use a desktop or laptop computer only (**No Chromebooks, tablets or phones permitted**)
- ✓ must use a computer with a microphone and webcam. The webcam, speakers, and microphone must remain fully operational throughout the test
- ✓ the computer must be connected to a power source
- ✓ a minimum of 2 MBPS download/upload speed is required to take the exam; however, we strongly recommend a speed of 5 MBPS. If the video feed is weak and is lost during the exam, it is an automatic failure.
- ✓ candidate must be alone in the room
- ✓ no eating during the test, but one drink on the desk is allowed
- ✓ desk surface and floor area must be completely clear except for computer and one drink
- ✓ no leaving the seat or talking
- ✓ a mirror must reveal the front of the computer screen to the proctor at the beginning of the exam.
- ✓ no headphones, dual monitors, or phone

For exam or technical difficulties, please contact [info@qababoard](mailto:info@qababoard) or call the office at (877)220-1839.

### **EXAM RETAKE POLICY**

**Retakes of Qualified Behavior Analyst (QBA):** Candidates who fail the exam on their first attempt may schedule a second attempt immediately after the first attempt. If the applicant fails to pass on the second attempt, a third exam may be scheduled 30 days after the second attempt. If needed, 30 days must elapse between the third and fourth exam attempt. Candidate may not test more often than 4 times without one year of their first exam attempt.

### **RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS**

All candidates must renew every 2 years. Participants may renew within 60 days of the deadline and must complete CEU and supervisor attestation information. Renewal fees apply. If a renewal application has lapsed over 30 days (up to 90 days), a reinstatement fee of \$50 is due in addition to the renewal fee. If the renewal has lapsed over 90 days, a penalty of \$100 will be due in addition to the renewal fee. If a certificate remains expired for an entire renewal period (2 years) the individual

must reapply and retake the exam to move their certificate status to active.

Candidates should use the intervals below to determine when to renew their credentials. **There are four deadlines for renewals, Jan 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1.** Continuing education credits are due at the time of renewal. Renewals can be done up to 60 days prior to the deadline by logging into the [www.qababoard.com](http://www.qababoard.com) account. It is the professional's responsibility to update any information regarding credentials, personal information, and renewals.

### APPROVED CEUs

All CEUs must include a certificate of attendance with a signature and the printed name of the presenter. Presenters must hold a master's degree or above in a related field.

Type	CEU	Restrictions
National/state ABA or related field associations (i.e., ABAI)	1 per clock hour	None
College/University coursework	1 per clock hour	None
Approved QABA provider	1 per clock hour	None
Seminar/webinar/workshop non-pre-approved QABA provider	1 per clock hour	2 CE
Participation in QABA committee or development	1 per clock hour	2 CE
Poster presentation	1 per poster	1 CE
Authorship article/presentation	3 per paper/presentation	3 CE

\*College/University coursework is subject to QABA approval. Transcripts and curriculum must be provided prior to submission for CE credit. Only subject matter specifically addressing the field of ABA, special education, autism, developmental disability and similar subjects will be considered.



## GRIEVANCE/COMPLAINT POLICIES

QABA strives to uphold best practice and integrity in all policies and procedures. Candidates, credentialed participants, and coursework or CEU providers are required to uphold the ethical guidelines and all policies and procedures established by the QABA Board.

All complaints and grievances are confidential. All parties remain anonymous unless a legal or ethical violation is substantiated. For cases where confidentiality poses a risk to the public, notifications to third party, legal authorities and/or employers may be necessary. Frivolous complaints made by fellow certificate holders or providers are subject to disciplinary action by the QABA Board.

All complaints are reviewed by the Disciplinary Review Committee (DRC), which is composed of the board president and vice president. If the board president or vice president are not available, a board member will or can step in to assist. The DRC and the Ethics committee reviews and assesses the complaint. Preliminary review is completed within 15 business days.

**A. Complaint Determination** The complaint is determined to:

- Be substantial and contain valid and sufficient information to justify a discipline committee review.
- Be insufficient and returned for further information or dismissed as not qualifying as an ethics/policy violation.
- Be more appropriate for administrative resolution through the QABA office.

**B. Disciplinary Committee Review** Prior to the submission of a complaint to the Board of Directors, the DRC and Ethics Committee is charged with determining the relevance of a complaint to the QABA Code of Ethics. The DRC and Ethics Committee conducts a preliminary investigation before sending a recommendation to the board, if necessary. A valid and substantial complaint is investigated by the Ethics Committee. The committee forwards a report and recommendation to the QABA Board upon completion of all relevant investigation materials. Notification is made within 45 business days (after all required documentation is submitted and a substantiated review is done) to the certificant or provider whose conduct is in question. Email, phone, and/or written correspondence and all contacts are documented in a written log of all data.

**C. Failure to Respond by the Certificant**

If the recipient does not respond within 15 business days, a certified letter or additional email is issued. The respondent has 15 business days upon receipt of the written notification to respond. All participants and providers are responsible for maintaining current and correct information in the QABA system. Incorrect or out-of-date information is not the responsibility of the QABA Board; however, every effort will be made to contact all parties. Failure to respond within 15 business days will result in automatic suspension of the certificate. During suspension, individuals cannot represent, provide services, nor bill services utilizing the credential. Further failure to respond to a suspension notice within an additional 15 business by the certificant will result in revocation following a board vote. Reinstatement of the certification may be requested in writing up to 30 business days following the revocation to the QABA Board President, along with thorough justification and data to support the reinstatement. The investigation timeline procedures will continue at that time.

**D. If the Complaint Involves a Board Member**

If a complaint is regarding, or in any way involves QABA board members, the board members in question will recuse themselves from the case and will have no involvement in the complaint investigation, discussions,

board decision, or appeal.

### **Board Review**

A final determination will be made only after all investigation materials and reports have been reviewed. If any legal proceedings are involved, the final decision will not be issued until those processes are complete. Depending on the outcome, the final determination may include actions affecting a certificate holder

#### **Possible Sanctions on the Certificant may include any of the following:**

- Caution/warning counseling.
- Code compliance or training through voluntary professional development.
- Suspension for a specific period of time or until completion of specific training, supervision, or code/policy correction is made.
- Probation for a specific period of time. The coursework provider would still be able to operate, but must meet certain requirements to remain in good standing, including but not limited to: specific training, or supervision of courses provided.
- Revocation: the participant is immediately removed from active status and listed as revoked after the appeals process.
- Dismissal: after thorough investigation, the board concludes that the complaint is unsubstantiated based on evidence provided.
- Voluntary surrender of certificate: if completed before the final determination, the file is sealed and the certificate is removed from the roster without comment.

If a complaint is filed against a certificant who is also a coursework provider or CE provider, depending on the outcome, the final determination may include actions affecting the status of the coursework provider or CE provider.

#### **Possible Sanctions on the Coursework Provider or CE provider may include any of the following:**

- Caution/Warning counseling
- Suspension of provider status for a specific period of time or until completion of specific training, supervision, or code/policy correction is made with the certificate holder.
- Revocation: the provider is immediately removed from active status and their certification will be listed as revoked after the appeals process.
- Dismissal: after thorough investigation, the board concludes the complaint is unsubstantiated based on evidence provided and the provider may continue with active status.
- Voluntary surrender of provider status: if completed before the final determination, the file is sealed and the provider status is removed without comment.

Determination results/sanctions are provided to the respondent or provider through written notice within 30 business days of final board quorum vote. Revocation of the credential is permanent, and certificants and providers may not re-apply. Complainants are notified in writing of the results of their filed complaint.

### **Appeals Process**

Appeals may be filed to the QABA Board within 90 days of receipt of the board's determination. A request to begin an appeal must be made in writing to the board president; however, all pertinent documentation is not required in order to begin the appeals process.

The Appeals Committee (AC) is composed of two board members who were not on the Disciplinary Review Committee (DRC) for the case, and at least one QABA Advisory Board member who has no association with the provider nor the employer of the respondent/provider.

The timeline to finalize an appeal will vary; some appeals may resolve within weeks, while others may take longer depending upon documentation availability, legal proceedings, and depth of required investigation.

## **COMPLAINT / GRIEVANCE TIMELINE OF ACTION**

<b>→ Preliminary Review (Ethics Committee)</b>	<b>→ Disciplinary Review Committee (Ethics Committee)</b>	<b>→ QABA Board Review (QABA Board quorum)</b>	<b>Appeals Committee (2 Board members not on DRC and 1 advisory memb er)</b>
15 days to assess after all information is received	DRC has 15 days to notify (email and phone) respondent of charge; 30 days to notify board of an open investigation	Board receives DRC recommendation within 30 days following all relevant materials	Appeal may be filed to the board presented within 90 days of board determination
	15 days to receive response; if no response, DRC sends certified letter or additional email.	60 days to vote on determination; respondent receives notification of results in 5 business days; complainant receives results	Appeals Committee receives appeal with evidence and begins investigation.
	Automatic suspension after 15 days of no response. Board is notified; employer is notified	Board revokes credential after 30 days of no response. Respondent may submit reinstatement request to QABA Board president within 30 days.	Appeals Committee submits justification report to board for re-determination; board has 30 days to make a determination after receipt of Appeals Committee report
	Additional 15 days following notification of suspension to respond before board votes to revoke	Employer is notified	Appeals Committee notifies all parties within 5 business days of board decision



	Automatic suspension after 15 days of no response. Board is notified; employer is notified	Board revokes credential after 30 days of no response. Respondent may submit reinstatement request to QABA Board president within 30 days.	Appeals Committee submits justification report to board for re-determination; board has 30 days to make a determination after receipt of Appeals Committee report
	Additional 15 days following notification of suspension to respond before board votes to revoke	Employer is notified	Appeals Committee notifies all parties within 5 business days of board decision

\*Deadlines may be extended for gathering additional data or legal/ professional board resolutions prior to the QABA final determination.

### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The QABA Credentialing Board will not discriminate against applicants, candidates or certificants on the basis of race, color, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), religion, age, marital status, registered domestic partner status, disability, socioeconomic or ethnic background, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status or national origin, or any other characteristic protected by law.

The QABA Credentialing Board will not tolerate any form of discrimination and will take appropriate disciplinary action, including potential termination, of any person determined to have engaged in unlawful discriminatory conduct. Any candidate who believes that he or she has been discriminated against should file a complaint to [info@qababoard.com](mailto:info@qababoard.com). Complaints may be lodged in writing or in person in the QABA office. Anyone filing a complaint will be advised, of any investigation, action or resolution regarding the problem. These complaints will be forwarded to the QABA Credentialing Board's executive director.

### ADA POLICY

QABA employs various options to accommodate those with special needs. These may include text-to-speech capability and video conferencing. Candidates may also request special accommodations here: <http://www.qababoard.com/QABA-accommodations.html>

**PRIVACY  
STATEMENT**

The QABA Credentialing Board's privacy policy ensures that all online information is password protected, and written documentation is securely stored at QABA's main office.



**Qualified Applied Behavior Analysis  
Credentialing Board®**

# **QABA ETHICAL CODE OF CONDUCT**

## **QABA ETHICAL CODE of CONDUCT**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The QABA Ethical Code of Conduct applies to all actively certified providers, applicants and approved CE providers.

The QABA Ethical Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines that applies to all credentialed providers, applicants and approved CE providers. In keeping with our QABA mission to establish the highest standard of care and to empower all professionals who provide behavior intervention services to individuals with neurological/development autism spectrum disorders and related disorders, our Ethical Code of Conduct is intended to provide guidance for certified professionals and their employers as to standards of conduct within the field of professional behavior analysis. The goal is to provide a framework that will promote ethical behavior and enhance professional judgment. The Ethical Code of Conduct is necessary to ensure professionals take the reasonable steps to safeguard: the client's welfare and rights, a standard of care and treatment, professional conduct, supervision, conflict resolution, appropriate training/research and other applicable professional responsibilities. If the Ethical Code of Conduct does not directly resolve an ethical dilemma, the certificant is to consult and determine what the prevailing decision would be with other professionals engaging in a similar capacity and/or activity. The Ethical Code of Conduct addresses ethics for all levels of certificants and applicants. Though some codes may relate to a specific certificate, the ethical standards are a comprehensive and universal guideline for the professional field and the responsibility of all levels of professional development.

## **1.0 COMPLIANCE**

### **1.1 Adherence to Code of Ethics**

- a. Certificants dedicate themselves to read, understand, and utilize the Ethical Code of Conduct as a standard of care. Lack of knowledge of the code of conduct does not excuse accountability.
- b. Certificants recognize a duty to adhere to all laws, rules and regulations, policies and ethical standards that apply to the practice of applied behavior analysis.
- c. Certificants follow the ethical codes and supervision standards related to ABA as required by other additional licenses, certifications, or memberships held. They abide by

pertinent laws, institutional rules, or professional behavior standards within their provision of service.

### **1.2 Ethical Responsibility**

a. If certificants are aware of any Code of Ethics violation by a fellow certificant, they are responsible for informing the certificant of the violation. If the unethical conduct continues, the certificant will report the violation to the QABA board. Awareness of any violation by a fellow certificant that involves neglect, endangerment, safety, or legal consequences should be reported to the QABA board immediately and to local authorities. Any certificants under investigation or facing legal charges directly related to their professional work as a behavior analyst or related to the mistreatment of vulnerable populations should be reported to the QABA board within three business days of becoming aware of the investigations and/or charges.

### **1.3 Ethical Dilemmas**

Concern over adherence to professional standards and/or compliance with the QABA Ethical Code of Conduct will be reported to a supervisor/leadership within the scope of service. When in doubt, it is best to review the code of conduct and utilize supervision relationships for further discussion. Discussion of individual situations provides learning experiences for all professionals and ensures integrity of the profession.

## **2.0 COMPETENCE**

### **2.1 Scope of Competence**

a. Certificants practice within their scope of competence as established by their education, training and experience. Any requests to provide services outside of the scope of the certificant must occur under the direct supervision of a qualified individual or organization knowledgeable in the services provided.

b. Paraprofessional certificants always provide services under supervision as outlined in QABA Policies and Procedures and the [ABAT Candidate Handbook](#).

c. Certificants submit qualified referrals to clients when asked to provide

services outside of their scope of competence or their current training. In emergency situations, certificants consult with a supervisor and/or receive training for the requested service but referrals are provided as soon as possible.

## **2.2 Professional Development**

Certificants maintain competence through continuing education requirements and will self-initiate any additional training and education to strengthen and enhance their skills and knowledge as it pertains to the populations in which they serve.

## **2.3 Integrity**

- a. Credentialed professionals maintain the highest standards of professional behavior and act in the best interest of the client.
- b. Certificants will demonstrate trustworthiness, honesty, fairness, and sincerity.
- c. Certificants uphold the principles of behavior analysis, utilizing scientific methods for treatment and intervention.
- d. Certificants engage with clients, colleagues, families, and stakeholders in a manner that promotes honest and trustworthy working environments.
- e. Certificants provide truthful, thorough, and accurate information directly related to educational qualifications, supervision requirements, services rendered (etc.) to the QABA board.
- f. Certificants adhere to rules and regulations regarding examination and testing procedures, audits, and safeguard any and all materials related to examination and QABA materials.
- g. Certificants provide accurate and prompt information to QABA regarding application, certification and renewal. It is the responsibility of the certificant to maintain current and accurate contact information, records, up-to-date public registry and current employment status by informing QABA in writing of any needed adjustments.

## **2.4 Impaired Certificants**

Certificants cease treatment if there are physical, psychological or legal factors impeding their ability to provide necessary and effective treatment, or if other

issues render them ineligible to maintain the certificate. Consultation, supervision, and transition of clients is to occur without delay. The certificants is encouraged to seek the appropriate help to restore their work preparedness.

### **3.0 PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY**

#### **3.1 Confidential Information**

- a. All information regarding clients, identifying information, diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and prognosis are confidential. Certificants are to comply with all privacy and confidentiality rules in the state or country of residence/practice. In the U.S., certificants are expected to follow the rules outlined in the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 \(HIPAA\)](#) in addition to any state or local municipality laws, rules or regulations. Certificants outside of the U.S. without existing privacy or confidentiality guidelines, should abide by the minimum standards described in HIPAA laws in addition to rules and regulations required by their local, state, or federal regulations.
- b. In countries other than the U.S., all communications and identifying information in email, fax, or other written documents are to comply with HIPAA and/or state laws and country of residence guidelines. Certificants utilize appropriate security measures or encryption when transferring confidential information.
- c. All supervision through video recording, tele-supervision, and all communication systems will be compliant with state/country's privacy and confidentiality laws, and HIPAA- compliant where applicable.
- d. Certificants keep confidential all QABA examination information, other proprietary information and will prevent unauthorized disclosures of exam information.

#### **3.2 Disclosure and Expressed Authorization**

Disclosure of confidential communication is prohibited unless such disclosure is made by written or expressed authorization, or when it is mandated by law to

avoid serious threat to the health and safety of the client or any other person.

### **3.3 Inadvertent Disclosure of Confidential Communication**

Procedures to prevent inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure of confidential information should be observed. In the event of unauthorized disclosure, the client should be immediately notified of the confidentiality breach. Clients are to also be informed of all procedures to prevent additional re-disclosure and to mitigate any impact.

### **3.4 Informed Consent**

Informed consent is the process in which a provider obtains written agreement from stakeholders which demonstrates their ability and willingness to participate in related services or certificant guidelines.

- a. Certificants obtain informed consent prior to conducting assessments, treatment, consultative services, research, other professional services, or any change in treatment.
- b. Informed consent will provide an explanation of the process, procedures and/or assessment being conducted.
- c. Informed consent must be in written form with a signature from the stakeholder and provided free of duress, threats, or fear and maintained in the participants file. Consent information is expressed in language that is understandable to the client receiving services.
- d. Informed consent is obtained only from the individual receiving services, legal caregiver, or other person legally authorized to represent the client, i.e a stakeholder.
- e. Consent to share any information is obtained in writing by clients for each specific and individual incident; except where this information protects the client from mortal harm or when required by federal, state, or local municipality law.

### **3.5 Work Product**

All client-related work product remains confidential and archived up to 7 years after treatment or as indicated by [HIPAA](#) or state/country laws, whichever is more stringent.

### **3.6 Maintaining Confidentiality**

Certificants maintain confidentiality of all client information. Certificants avoid social media content with client or client-related information, disclosure of

client records, data, photographs, videos and discussion of clients to unauthorized individuals. Utilizing client information for clinical discussion or presentations will only be on a need-to-know basis and all identifying information should remain closely guarded.

### **3.7 Confidential Communications After Termination of a Relationship**

All communications between a client/stakeholder and an organization or certificant should remain confidential for the life of the client and after the client's death; except in cases where such communications must be disclosed to prevent harm to self or others.

## **4.0 PROVISION OF SERVICE**

### **4.1 Assessment**

- a. Certificants conduct and interpret only the assessments which are supported by research and within their scope of practice, training and educational understanding.
- b. Certificants make recommendations based on results from assessments supported through research to properly address the behavior and/or medical diagnosis of the client. Results from these assessments, in conjunction with environment and functional bases of behaviors, drive the recommendations for treatment.
- c. Certificants engage in data-based decision making.

### **4.2 Explaining Results**

Certificants should explain results of assessments and/or client progress in clear and concise terms. When possible, results should be explained in the native language of the client and/or stakeholder.

### **4.3 Specialty Consultation**

Certificants advise clients to seek assessment and consultation with specialties outside the scope of behavior analysis when deemed a behavior may relate to other factors. Specialties may include, but are not limited to: medical, biological, developmental, speech and language, occupational therapy, physical

therapy, psychological, psychiatric, nutrition, or other related disciplines. Certificants coordinate client care with other professionals who may contribute to overall treatment efficacy.

#### **4.4 Programming**

- a. Certificants develop treatment plans with input and consent from the client and/or legal guardian.
- b. Certificants ensure that proposed interventions are in alignment with the client's needs, values, beliefs and social significance.

#### **4.5 Behavior Change Plans**

- a. Certificants tailor behavior programs to meet the needs of individual clients.
- b. Certificants develop clear and concise behavior change programs that can be implemented by all team members. All behavior change programs should be evidence-based and empirically validated.
- c. Certificants develop goals and objectives that have clear mastery criteria.
- d. Client consent is obtained prior to any alteration of a behavior change program which significantly changes the direction of the treatment (e.g., change in behavior, change in procedures not previously discussed, addition or modification of goals).
- e. Language used in the behavior change program is written in a way that is understandable to the clients receiving services and their caregivers.
- f. Behaviors and goals outlined in the behavior change program has a clear operational definition and topography that is observable and measurable by all members of the team.
- g. Behavior plans provide clear goals necessary to client success, including objectives, expectations and environmental factors.

#### **4.6 Environmental Variables**

- a. Environmental variables (circumstances, events, etc. which contribute to the efficacy or lack thereof of treatment rendered) are evaluated on an ongoing basis to promote the

best opportunity for success.

b. In order to increase treatment efficacy, certificants communicate with the appropriate parties about any recommended modifications or alternatives to the client's environment.

#### **4.7 Punishment Procedures I'd like to discuss the concerns raised.**

a. Reinforcement procedures are used prior to considering punishment procedures.

b. If punishment procedures are necessary following evidenced-based assessment, they are used in conjunction with a functionally equivalent reinforcement procedure and an appropriate schedule of reinforcement.

c. If a punishment procedure is implemented, certificants monitor the behavior to ensure the procedure is not having an adverse effect on the client or behavior. If the client's behavior puts the client's health or safety at risk, becomes more frequent or more intense, the procedure is immediately removed.

#### **4.8 Restrictive Interventions**

Certificants first consider least restrictive interventions for the client.

#### **4.9 Protect from Harm and Reinforcers**

Certificants actively protect their client from harm throughout treatment. Reinforcers are chosen so they are not potentially hazardous to the client's health or safety. In addition, client specific abilities are taken into consideration when choosing reinforcers.

### **5.0 RESPONSIBILITY TO CLIENTS AND CLIENTS' RIGHTS**

#### **5.1 Identifying the Client**

a. Clients should consent to treatment prior to services and be provided

guidelines for services, confidential information, and rules for mandatory reporting.

b. At the onset of services, certificants discuss and document criterion for completion of services or criteria for discontinuing or transferring services.

## **5.2 Clients Rights**

a. Certificants are aware of client's legal and ethical rights and will act if those rights have been violated or are at risk of violation.

b. Certificants do not engage in unfair discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, disability or any other basis prescribed by law.

c. Clients will receive accurate and thorough data, reports, and treatment progress information that is jargon-free and presented in a clear and comprehensible manner.

d. Clients may request the current valid credentials of any service provider.

## **5.3 Obligations as a Mandated Reporter**

Suspected misconduct or known child, elder, and/or dependent adult abuse/neglect is immediately reported to a supervisor or department leadership, including additional authoritative agencies as required by the certificant's state, federal, or local municipality law.

## **5.4 Third Party Involvement in Services**

a. At the onset of services provided at the request of a third party, a clear explanation is provided to all parties as to the relationship, financial responsibility to the client, and any potential conflicts and limits to confidentiality.

b. Certificants ultimate responsibility lies with the care of the client. If a conflict of interest arises with a third party, active steps are taken to resolve the conflict, make all issues transparent, and transition services if no resolution can be made in the best interest of the client.

## **6.0 HUMAN RELATIONS**

### **6.1 Avoiding Harm**

Certificants serve within their scope of practice and take reasonable steps to avoid harming their clients, supervisees and others with which they work. Certificants take reasonable steps to minimize harm where it is unavoidable and foreseeable.

### **6.2 Unfair Discrimination**

Certificants will not engage in unfair discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, disability or any other basis mandated by law.

### **6.3 Harassment**

Certificants will not knowingly or willingly engage in any type of behavior that is demeaning or harassing, including any form of sexual harassment towards subordinates, supervisees, clients, colleagues, or others with which they engage in their professional capacity.

### **6.4 Professional Relationships**

Certificants follow [QABA's Non-Discrimination Policy](#) as found in the Candidate Handbooks on the [QABA website](#). Certificants refrain from unprofessional conduct that contradicts general ethical standards of practice, and they maintain professional boundaries while maximizing self-reliance and independence in those they serve.

### **6.5 Multiple Relationships**

Certificants avoid multiple relationships with clients, supervisors, supervisees, colleagues, and stakeholders. They also avoid accepting gifts which could negatively impact the certificants' effectiveness, objectivity or competence in their current function. Exceptions may be made in the case of cultural

consideration, where gifts (i.e., food, tokens of appreciation) may be customary and to refuse would be insensitive. If a potential harmful multiple relationship has inadvertently occurred, the certificant takes reasonable steps to resolve the matter and immediately contacts the supervisor or the supervisor's superior.

#### **6.6 Exploitation**

Certificants refrain from engaging in exploitative relationships with subordinates, supervisees, clients, and any others they interact with in a professional capacity.

#### **6.7 Sexual Relationships and Treatment**

Certificants avoid sexual or intimate relationships with subordinates, supervisees, clients and their family members or those close to clients. Relationships with former adult clients should be avoided for a minimum of two years.

#### **6.8 Conflict of Interest**

Certificants make a reasonable attempt to identify their personal/professional biases. They refrain from engaging in professional roles where personal, scientific, legal, financial, or other interests impact their effectiveness, objectivity, or competence in their performance.

#### **6.9 Clarification of Roles**

Prior to the onset of services and thereafter where appropriate, certificants identify the client's rights, including parental/caretaker rights, scope of services, role of all participants in services, and limits to confidentiality.

#### **6.10 Interruption and Termination of Services**

- a. Certificants take reasonable steps to transfer client care if services are interrupted or terminated and will make a reasonable effort to coordinate care for all aspects of treatment.
- b. Certificants provide sufficient notice (minimum 2 weeks) to clients and

employers when there is an impending change of service.

c. Certificants ensure any pending client-related documentation is complete when terminating treatment and provide any information post transition that serves in the best interest of the client's care.

d. Discontinuation of services occurs if: the client requests termination, the client is not benefiting from treatment, or the client no longer needs the service. Referrals and alternative steps towards treatment are completed prior to discontinuation if treatment is ineffectual unless precluded by the client or third-party payors.

## **7.0 SUPERVISION and TRAINING**

### **7.1 Guidelines**

a. Paraprofessionals provide treatment only when receiving the prescribed supervision as outlined in QABA Policies and Procedures.

b. Paraprofessionals who practice independently without the appropriate supervision and/or knowingly assist other participants to obtain certification or recertification by fraud or deception may be grounds for immediate revocation or denial of certification.

c. Only qualified professionals [as outlined in the QABA Policies and Procedures in Candidate Handbooks](#) may provide supervision. Supervision may not be delegated to unqualified individuals. Supervisors are not required to be employed at the same site as supervisees but they must be available in-person, via phone, email, or via another modality.

d. Supervisors and supervisees comply with the QABA regulations, as well as institutional rules as they relate to supervision.

### **7.2 Supervisor to Monitor Performance**

a. Supervisors take responsibility for those they supervise and ensure that

best practice is always adhered to, and that supervisees are in compliance with the QABA policies and regulations, ethical code of conduct, and any governing laws as it relates to treatment of client and client care.

b. Supervisors are responsible for the accuracy and effectiveness of service provision, confidentiality, and professional development of each supervisee.

c. Supervisors obtain client background information and clinical/medical history for each client for which they supervise care.

d. Supervisors provide data-driven ethical treatment of all clients under their supervision.

e. Supervisors provide ongoing clear and objective feedback in keeping with the individualized goals and criteria for the supervisee at the onset of supervision.

f. Supervisors ensure that all training, protocol, procedures and curriculum is effectively designed, evidence-based and empirically validated, and relevant to the nature of the supervisee's profession.

### **7.3 Informing the Client About Supervision**

At the onset of treatment, supervisors ensure that clients are notified when treatment is being provided by a trainee, and that services will include supervisor oversight, including disclosure of all treatment-related information.

### **7.4 Supervision During a Crisis**

Supervisor have a crisis plan in place and are available in-person or by phone to assist trainees in the event of a client emergency.

### **7.5 Supervision Limitations**

a. Supervisors should not supervise family members, a spouse, or others with whom they share a close relationship. In situations where this is unavoidable, supervisors will contact the QABA board for guidance in adhering to supervision requirements.

b. Supervisors refrain from supervising if they do not feel professionally, psychologically or physically competent to provide appropriate supervision.

c. Supervisors do not require supervisees to disclose personal information except when used to evaluate the supervisee's competency to provide services.

#### **7.6 Supervisor Maintaining Active Certification**

Supervisors maintain an active certificate, complete required CEUs, obtain the appropriate training and relevant experience needed to effectively supervise trainees. Supervisors are unable to supervise if their certification status becomes inactive.

#### **7.7 Supervisor Assisting Trainee with Certification Documentation**

a. Prior to beginning supervision, supervisors ensure that agreements are in place between the supervisor and supervisee that is clear, legally binding, and identifies objective outcomes, criteria and termination provisions. Both supervisor and supervisee maintain all documentation of supervision at all times. The supervisor guides and assists the trainee in correctly completing all required documentation. Only the time periods that adhere to the restricted definition of supervision in QABA Policy and Procedures are calculated toward fieldwork and acknowledged on logs and verification forms.

#### **7.8 Fee for Supervision**

Contracts for independent supervision services will contain set fees that are fair and commensurate with the services provided in that location, and with objectively defined terms for services. Services are not provided under a barter agreement, unless a clear and legally binding agreement is in place and customary for the area where services are provided.

### **8.0 RECORD KEEPING and FEES**

#### **8.1 Record Content/Record Context**

Certificants appropriately and accurately document all professional work, to

include progress, data, reports, disclosure of confidential information, electronic communications, records in a manner consistent with scientific and legal representation.

#### **8.2 Safeguarding of Records**

Certificants ensure that all records (electronic, written, and other medium) are created, maintained, transferred, stored and disposed of in accordance with applicable state/country laws, HIPAA regulations, and QABA Policies and Procedures.

#### **8.3 Length of Record Keeping**

Certificants maintain all client records in a confidential manner for a minimum of 7 years after termination of services or as otherwise required by law.

#### **8.4 Fees and Referrals Agreement**

- a. Certificants accurately state services, fees, provider information, outcomes and any relevant information in order to correctly bill services.
- b. Fees, gifts, or other benefits will not be accepted for professional referrals, preferential advertising or any arrangement that establishes a quid pro quo relationship.

### **9.0 PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

#### **9.1 Accuracy and Adequacy/Completeness of Information**

Before disclosure of any public statement or information, certificants ensure the accuracy, context of the information and completeness of the communication.

#### **9.2 Citing Source and Copyright of Published Materials**

Certificants obtain consent of the publisher and/or copyright holder before citing any published or copyrighted material. All sources must be properly cited and adhere to any and all required guidelines.

#### **9.3 Statement of Contractual Agreement**

Any contractual agreement will be made in good faith, with clear objectives

and expectations of the certificant and the client.

#### **9.4 Advertisements and Announcements of Services**

- a. Certificants will not make any misrepresentative advertisement or announcement.
- b. To avoid any misrepresentation or misunderstanding, certificants should use professional titles, degrees, and credentials which accurately represent their education and training.
- c. Certificants obtain permission before using QABA approved logos, approved coursework or continuing education provider logos as outlined in QABA Policy and Procedures and approved-provider policy and guidelines.

#### **9.5 Statements on Behalf of Organizations/Places of Employment**

Statements on behalf of organizations/places of employment are not made without prior consent of the organization or place of employment. Statements should embody the mission of QABA, be factual, and adhere to all ethical guidelines outlined in this document.

### **10.0 RESEARCH**

Research is to be conducted only after approval is obtained by an institutional review board only, and will be conducted using approved research protocol. The certificant's primary goal is to maintain the client's welfare while contributing to scientific, educational, or applied value in a significant way.

#### **10.1 Obtaining Informed Consent for Research**

Informed Consent is obtained from the participant(s) prior to conducting any research. Informed consent includes the nature of the study, limits of confidentiality, rights to decline, unforeseen consequences, the use of data obtained and results of the study, the researcher's contact information, and any other requirements set forth by the institutional review board.

#### **10.2 Welfare in Research**

Research should not cause physical or psychological harm to participants,



students, clients, and/or subordinates. All attempts are made to minimize discomfort or stress during participation.

### **10.3 Deception**

- a. Deception should be avoided when conducting research unless it has been determined that the research will add scientific, educational, or applied value and it would not be possible to conduct without the use of deception. The researcher will consult with their educational institution and/or other overseeing regulation board regarding deception and apply the most stringent regulation.
- b. Participants will not be offered excessive inducements for participating in or reporting specific results.

### **10.4 Debriefing**

All participants will be debriefed at the conclusion of their participation or as indicated by the applicable regulatory board. Debriefing includes but is not limited to explaining the purpose of the study, reviewing results (when available), answering the participant's questions, and offering a copy of the research publication once complete.

### **10.5 Research Data and Results**

- a. The researcher will not use misleading or fabricated data. Reasonable steps to correct errors in data are taken if/when errors occur. Duplication of data is not permissible when presented as new/original data.
- b. The researcher makes his/her data available for verification purposes when requested.
- c. Should historical data be mentioned or discussed in research, citations must reflect the original nature and location of the data and adhere to all ethical guidelines as outlined in this document.

### **10.6 Plagiarism and Research Publication Acknowledgement**

Plagiarism is unacceptable and appropriate citation must be used in

publications when using another's work. Researchers will credit those who added substantial contribution to the research when publishing his/her work.