

12 Core Ethical Principles – Quick Reference

Professional Ethics & Boundaries • Theme 1B • THW Continuing Education

QUICK REFERENCE

12 Core Ethical Principles

From the National Practice Guidelines for Peer Supporters

A printable reference for your practice. Keep it visible. Return to it often.

1. VOLUNTARY Freely chosen by both parties.	2. HOPEFUL Recovery is possible. Things can get better.
3. OPEN-MINDED No judgment. No imposed values.	4. EMPATHETIC Deep listening. Shared experience.
5. RESPECTFUL Dignity, autonomy, self-determination.	6. FACILITATES CHANGE Support growth. Build independence.
7. HONEST & DIRECT Truthful, kind, willing to have hard talks.	8. MUTUAL & RECIPROCAL Both parties learn and grow.
9. EQUALLY SHARED POWER Equals, not expert and client.	10. STRENGTHS-FOCUSED Build on what works.
11. TRANSPARENT Clear about role, intent, and limits.	12. PERSON-DRIVEN The peer leads their own path.

WHEN YOU'RE STUCK

Ask yourself: "Does this choice align with these 12 principles?"
If yes — proceed. If unclear — consult.

Full National Practice Guidelines available at www.peersupportworks.org. SAMHSA Core Competencies at www.samhsa.gov. Oregon THW Program: www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/HP-HCW