

# PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

## *Confidentiality, Ethics, Boundaries, and Cultural Congruence*

The fifth [Core Competency](#) for Certified Family Peer Specialists (CFPS) addresses the ability of family peers to perform basic job skills and follow organization policies, adhere to the CFPS Code of Ethics, keep families' private information confidential, create and sustain healthy boundaries with families, keep up-to-date with current best practices in the field of family peer support by completing professional development, and practice cultural congruence.

### **Perform Job Skills and Follow Policies**

Family peers understand the difference between family peer support and clinical services. CFPSs know and follow their organization's policies related to family peer support work, asking for clarification as needed. CFPSs master basic work skills, including note-taking, completing necessary paperwork, and engaging in supervisory activities.

### **Adhere to the CFPS Code of Ethics**

Certified Family Peer Specialists pledge to uphold the values and principles in the [Code of Ethics](#) in order to live out their ethical commitment as family peers with lived experience. The principles include 1) integrity, 2) safety, 3) professional responsibility, and 4) certification responsibilities.

### **Maintain Confidentiality**

Family peers use their lived experience of navigating mental health and substance use systems to share [best practices](#) and [advocacy tips](#), and to [support families](#) as they navigate these systems together.

### **Create and Sustain Boundaries**

Family peers clearly communicate and maintain necessary boundaries between a CFPS and a family in a support relationship, including refraining from entering into romantic relationships, engaging in direct financial exchanges, and doing for instead of with.

### **Engage in Professional Development**

Family peers regularly engage in [training](#) to understand current research and best practices in family peer support.

### **Practice Cultural Congruence**

Family peers approach each family with [curiosity about their unique culture](#) and meet them where they are.