

(Effective January 1, 2025)

WAC 246-821-405 Ethical standards. (1) The definitions and prohibitions on sexual misconduct described in chapter 246-16 WAC apply to behavioral health support specialists, except WAC 246-16-100 (4) and (5).

(2) A BHSS shall never engage, or attempt to engage in:

(a) The activities listed in WAC 246-16-100 (1) and (2) with a former client or former key party; or

(b) A nontreatment relationship with a former client or former key party that could be perceived to create a conflict of interest or imbalance of power.

(3) A BHSS shall follow all federal and state laws and regulations about confidentiality and privacy including, but not limited to, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and 42 C.F.R., Part 2, as well as chapter 70.02 RCW.

(4) When providing care or treatment to a client, a BHSS shall limit self-disclosure to maintain a professional, neutral environment, in order to keep treatment sessions focused on client needs.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.227.020, chapter 18.227 RCW, and 2023 c 270. WSR 24-21-083, s 246-821-405, filed 10/16/24, effective 1/1/25.]