

2. **Identify the potential issues involved.** By telling Terry about Sally's session you would be committing a breach of confidentiality. Yet you know that it would be helpful to Sally if Terry was aware of what occurred. The potential hazards of sharing this information with Terry are: Sally may become upset with you and decide not to return; you may lose your credibility with both Terry and Sally; and you may lose potential clients due to the bad-will generated by this incident. You decide not to breach confidentiality by disclosing nothing about Sally's session.
3. **Review your profession's code of ethics and relevant laws.** While you're unable to find any legal specifications, your professional Code of Ethics states that you must maintain client confidentiality.
4. **Evaluate potential courses of action.** You have several options. First you need to decide what to say to Terry. You can shrug your shoulders and say, "Well, I guess it was rather intense," and then continue your session. Or you can say, "I highly value my commitment to client confidentiality. It would be best if you ask Sally directly about her session." You determine if you should pursue this any further at all (remind Terry to talk to Sally, or recommend to Sally that she talk with Terry), depending upon how Terry responded to your reply about the session and your sense of the benefits resulting from Sally sharing the information with Terry.
5. **Obtain consultation.** You talk with several colleagues and get a mixed response. Some think that it isn't really a problem since the clients are partners. Other colleagues are adamant about it being a breach of confidentiality.

Sample Code of Ethics

We, as wellness providers, have the responsibility to guide our actions to serve the best interests of the client. As members of this profession, we realize this responsibility can only be upheld by maintaining the highest degree of personal and professional integrity. As wellness practitioners, we make the commitment to provide personalized care and knowledgeable techniques, in a clean, comfortable atmosphere, thereby ensuring the client's safety and well-being.

Therefore, I agree to the following:

1. Maintain a professional appearance and demeanor by keeping good hygiene and wearing attire that is appropriate for the client setting.
2. Respect all clients regardless of their age, gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status, body type, political affiliation, state of health and personal habits.
3. Demonstrate respect by honoring a client's process, being present, listening, asking only pertinent questions, keeping my agreements, being on time, draping properly, and maintaining professionalism.