

1  Ethical Considerations in Creating a Client Record

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Hosted By: Cascadia-Training.org

2  The **2** Factors Ethical Clinicians Can't Ignore in Their Records:

- Vigilance for Maximum Confidentiality
- Documentation that Supports Good Treatment

3  Clinical Records Have Been  
Co-Opted for Other Functions:

- Justify Payment by 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties
- Self Protection of the Treating Clinician
- Forensic Evidence About the Client in Legal Actions

4  "Fluid" Standards We Can't Ignore

- Standard of Care
- Standard of Practice

5  The BEST Malpractice Defense:  
Consciously constructed clinical documentation.

6  Smorgasbord

7  **3** Basics We MUST Include:

- "What is the problem?"
- "What am I going to DO about it?"
- "What do I expect will happen?"

8  HIPAA's Seductive Joke:

- "Psychotherapy Notes"

9  Covet "Reduction of Stigma!"

10  From the DSM-IV, pg 3

- "In most cases, the principle diagnosis or the reason for the visit is also the main focus of attention or treatment."

11  Why Use This...

- Axis I – Dysthymic Disorder / Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood
- Axis II – Deferred / none
- Axis III – none
- Axis IV – Psychosocial & Environmental Problems – Problems with Primary Support Group (disruption of family by divorce / separation)
- Axis V – GAF 65 +/-

- 12  When you can use this...  
"Unanticipated, overwhelming, and alternating feelings of anger and powerlessness in response to acrimonious events associated with ongoing divorce that result in significant interference with client's ability to focus at work and attend fully to all parenting tasks."
- 13  Our Favorite Writing Exercise...  
The client's treatment plan:  
✓ Problem  
✓ Goal  
✓ Objective  
✓ Intervention  
✓ Outcome.
- 14  Progress Notes...  
 DON'T include the devil in the details!  
 Document the treatment, NOT the client's life!
- 15  Just because the client leaves...  
 Don't think your work is done!  
 Documenting the ending is cheap insurance against abandonment charges
- 16  Minimal legal standards provide minimal self-protection