



# North Carolina Child Care Health Consultant Association

## CODE OF ETHICS

### 2007/Revised 2022

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## Code of Ethics Contents

I.	Code of Ethics Statement .....	pg. 1
	Article I: Responsibility to the Early Care & Education Community	pg. 1
	Article II: Responsibility to Children and Families	pg. 2
	Article III: Responsibility to the Profession	pg. 2
	Article IV: Responsibility to Hiring Agency and Funding Source(s)	pg. 3
	Article V: Responsibility to Colleagues	pg. 3
	Article VI: Responsibility to Public Health and Early Childhood Systems	pg. 4
II.	References .....	pg. 4
III.	Appendixes .....	pg. 5

## **Code of Ethics Statement**

### **Preamble (Introduction)**

North Carolina Child Care Health Consultant Association Code of Ethics Statement establishes the standards and norms for ethical conduct within the profession of child care health consultation. It defines the parameters of the human relationships that health professionals have with the early care and education community. Moreover, it identifies the characteristics of the profession and the principles that guide actions and behaviors.

The child care health consultant (CCHC), as a health professional, aspires to consistently respect the rights and beliefs of all humans and will make services available regardless of race, age, color, culture, gender, sexual orientation, creed, or social status.

### **ARTICLE I: Responsibility to the Early Care and Education Community**

The CCHC's goal is to improve the quality of early care and education as it relates specifically to the health and safety of the program environment.

#### *SECTION 1*

The CCHC supports the right of early educators to make informed decisions regarding the health and safety of their programs.

#### *SECTION 2*

The CCHC provides the early care and education community with appropriate information and technical assistance to support the health and safety of children and adults.

#### *SECTION 3*

The CCHC provides early educators with information based upon current research, public health priorities and evidence-based best practices.

#### *SECTION 4*

The CCHC holds early care and education program information in confidence. When written permission has been granted, the CCHC should exercise professional judgment when sharing information.

#### *SECTION 5*

The CCHC encourages early educators to increase the knowledge and skills necessary to implement best practices to improve program quality.

### **ARTICLE II: Responsibility to Children and Families**

The CCHC supports the families whose children attend early care and education programs by working to ensure the health and safety of their children in the program environment, and by providing referrals for necessary resources.

#### *SECTION 1*

The CCHC supports children and families in a manner that respects and honors their individual needs and circumstances.

#### *SECTION 2*

The CCHC advocates for children and families, with the goal of positively impacting communities and populations identified to be at higher risk for poor health outcomes.

#### *SECTION 3*

The CCHC provides resources for families which promote safe, stable, consistent, and nurturing home environments.

#### *SECTION 4*

The CCHC holds personal information of children and families in confidence. When written permission has been granted, the CCHC should exercise professional judgment when sharing information.

### **ARTICLE III: Responsibility to the Profession**

As a member of the CCHC profession, the CCHC is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the profession and its practice, shaping social policy, and educating the public as it relates to the profession.

#### *SECTION 1*

The CCHC demonstrates the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, and honesty in all professional activities, both in person and virtually, to inspire the confidence and trust of the public and those with whom they work. These attributes should also be demonstrated in social media presence.

#### *SECTION 2*

The CCHC strives for professional excellence; constantly building upon their current knowledge base as described in the National CCHC Competencies. The CCHC will function within the scope of practice of their discipline and their level of skill.

### *SECTION 3*

The CCHC aspires to advance the profession of child care health consultation, utilizing evidence-based research that is published within the last 5 years.

### **ARTICLE IV: Responsibility to Hiring Agency and Funding Source(s)**

The CCHC understands and meets the expectations of the job, as agreed upon by the hiring agency and funding source(s) and is proactive in securing the future of the position.

#### *SECTION 1*

The CCHC accurately represents their qualifications, including education, skill level and licensure, when applicable, and works within scope of practice for the profession of child care health consultation.

#### *SECTION 2*

The CCHC keeps their employers and funding source(s) abreast of changes in the field of child care health consultation.

#### *SECTION 3*

The CCHC identifies what is needed in the early care and education community to support health and safety of children and advocates for appropriate funding.

#### *SECTION 4*

The CCHC proactively projects upcoming needs to ensure that funds are spent appropriately within budgetary guidelines, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

#### *SECTION 5*

The CCHC is held morally accountable for time management, use of resources, and compliance with the hiring agency's operational policies.

### **ARTICLE V: Responsibility to Colleagues**

The CCHC collaborates and shares information with colleagues seeking to improve the quality of early care and education program environments.

#### *SECTION 1*

The CCHC encourages the professional development of CCHC colleagues. The CCHC uses anticipatory guidance, assistance, support, and mentorship, without the burden of competition, to foster professional development.

#### *SECTION 2*

The CCHC alerts appropriate persons when unethical CCHC practices are observed.

#### *SECTION 3*

The CCHC values partnerships with and respects the expertise of colleagues in other fields related to child health, early childhood, special education, and/or early intervention.

## **ARTICLE VI: Responsibility to Public Health and Early Childhood Systems**

The CCHC is an integral part of the public health and early childhood system infrastructure, working as an advocate to promote and protect the health and safety of participants in regulated early care and education settings.

### *SECTION 1*

The CCHC promotes the mission of public health and executes their practice accordingly.

### *SECTION 2*

The CCHC aligns their job responsibilities with outlined public health initiatives and health priorities as defined by the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services Title V, Maternal Child Health.

### *SECTION 3*

The CCHC collaborates with other organizations that have a vested interest in the well-being of young children.

## **References**

*Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs*, 4th Edition (2019). American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, & National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Washington, DC

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National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (2021). *Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE)*. Washington, DC: NASDTEC

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## **Appendices**

### **Glossary of Terms**

- Code of Ethics – defines the core value of the field and provides guidance for what professionals should do when they encounter conflicting obligations or responsibilities in their work
- Characteristics – distinguishing traits or qualities in an individual
- Colleagues – co-workers or professional associates typically in a similar field
- Ethical Conduct – behaviors and actions that one engages in to assure the integrity of the profession