

RBT ETHICS CODE (2.0)

Ethics Quick-Reference Sheet

Key BACB Ethics Code principles for RBTs, summarized in plain language — confidentiality, scope of practice, dual relationships, reporting, and professional conduct.

1

General Responsibilities

Standards 1.01–1.12 • Who you are as a professional

1.01

Honesty & Integrity

Be truthful in all professional conduct. Never lead others toward fraudulent, illegal, or unethical behavior.

1.02

Professional Conduct

Be accountable for your actions and follow through on work commitments. If you can't, work with your supervisor.

1.03

Scope of Practice

Only provide services within your clearly defined RBT role, under close, ongoing supervision — never independently.

1.05–1.06

Competence Boundaries

Only perform tasks your supervisor has verified you're competent to do. Ask before attempting something new.

1.09

Multiple (Dual) Relationships

Avoid relationships with clients or supervisors outside the professional one. If one develops unexpectedly, tell your supervisor.

1.10

Romantic & Sexual Relationships

Never engage in sexual relationships with current clients or supervisors, or with former ones for at least 2 years after the relationship ends.

2

Responsibilities in Providing Services

Standards 2.01–2.10 • How you treat clients and their information

2.01

Client Dignity

Treat clients with compassion, respect, and dignity in every interaction, regardless of behavior presented.

2.03–2.04

Confidentiality

Never disclose client information without consent, except as required by law or to prevent harm.

2.05

Client Rights

Support clients' legal rights. If you see their rights being violated, take action to protect them.

2.06

Following the Treatment Plan

Implement the plan as written by the BCBA. You do not have authority to change goals or procedures on your own.

2.08–2.09

Documentation

Create, store, and dispose of records securely and in line with laws, policies, and this Code.

2.10

Social Media & Public Posts

Never post identifying client information — photos, videos, or written details — publicly or on social media.



The Core Idea

Almost every ethics scenario comes back to one question: **am I acting within my defined role, protecting the client, and being transparent with my supervisor?** When unsure, that question is your compass.

3

Responsibilities to the BACB & Your Supervisor

Standards 3.01–3.07 · Compliance, supervision, and self-reporting

3.01**Supervision Compliance**

Actively participate in required supervision, including scheduled meetings, observations, and audits.

3.02**Following Supervisor Direction**

Follow your supervisor's direction. If asked to do something unethical, raise the concern immediately.

3.03**Accurate BACB Information**

Keep your BACB account current and provide truthful, accurate information at all times.

3.05–3.07**Self-Reporting**

Report specific events to the BACB within 30 days of becoming aware of them (see below).

What Must Be Self-Reported Within 30 Days

- Legal charges filed against you, and any related actions or documents the BACB requests.
- Investigations or disciplinary actions by an employer, government agency, school, or third-party payer.
- A physical or mental condition that impairs your ability to safely provide services.
- A change to your name, mailing address, or email address on file with the BACB.

**If You Suspect an Ethics Violation**

The reporting pathway, step by step

- 1 Bring the concern to your **supervisor** first, whenever it's safe and appropriate to do so.
- 2 Document every action you take — dates, people involved, and a description of the outcome. Keep all related records.
- 3 If it can't be resolved directly, report it to the next appropriate authority (employer, licensure board, or law enforcement).
- 4 If it involves a violation of the RBT Ethics Code or the Ethics Code for Behavior Analysts, submit a formal report to the **BACB**.

**Common Ethics Traps to Avoid**

Frequent scenarios on the exam and in practice

Accepting Gifts

Accepting personal gifts from a client's family can blur boundaries and create a dual relationship — decline politely.

Social Media Connections

Never friend, follow, or message a client or their family on personal social media accounts.

Changing the Plan Yourself

If a strategy doesn't seem to be working, flag it to your BCBA — never modify the plan on your own.

Discussing Clients Casually

Even well-meaning updates to a coworker in a hallway or public space can violate confidentiality.