

CLIENT COUNSELING COMPETITION

STANDARDS FOR JUDGING

The Judges are asked to evaluate the competitors in various categories. The following scale is used to assess the performance of the team in each category:

a= highly effective b = effective c = somewhat effective d = ineffective e = very ineffective

The following categories are considered:

1. *Working Atmosphere*: Established the beginning of an effective professional relationship and working atmosphere and, if and when appropriate, oriented the client to the special nature of the relationship, including confidentiality; explanation of fees; responded to client's concerns, discussed mutual obligations and rights, after-hours availability, duration and plan of the consultation etc. in a courteous, sensitive and professional manner.
2. *Description of the Problem*: Learned how the client viewed his or her situation, using a combination of listening and questioning, drawing out both information and feelings, as appropriate, to develop a reasonably complete and reliable description of the problem.
3. *Client's Goals and Expectations*: Learned the client's goals and initial expectations, modified or developed these as necessary.
4. *Problem Analysis*: Analyzed the client's problem with creativity and from both legal and non-legal perspectives, resulting in a clear and useful formulation of the problem.
5. *Moral and Ethical Issues*: Recognized, clarified, and responded to any moral or ethical issues that may have arisen, without being prejudicial or judgmental.
6. *Alternative Courses of Action*: Consistent with the analysis of the client's problem, developed a set of potentially effective and feasible alternatives, both legal and non-legal.
7. *Client's Informed Choice*: As appropriate, assisted the client in his or her understanding of problems and solutions and in making an informed choice, taking potential legal, economic, social and psychological consequences into account.
8. *Effective Conclusion*: Concluded the interview skillfully and left the client with a feeling of reasonable confidence and understanding, with appropriate reassurance, and with a clear sense of specific expectations and mutual obligations to follow.
9. *Teamwork*: As collaborating counselors, worked together as a team, with flexibility and an appropriate balance of participation.
10. *Post-Interview Reflection*: During the follow-up phase, gave evidence of having recognized their own and the client's feelings, the strengths and limitations of their interviewing and counseling skills, their handling of the substantive aspects of the client's problems (legal and non-legal), and provided for an effective follow-up.
11. *Overall Rating*: Synthesizing the above criteria, including how effectively the team used its time, how do you rate the client counseling team?

***Students are instructed to apply the law of their jurisdiction and judges should presume the accuracy of their application despite differences in the law of the host jurisdiction.**