

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) Law & Ethics Exam 1 Practice (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

- 1. According to California law, what can an LPCC in private practice do regarding business names?**
 - A. Choose any name without restrictions**
 - B. Use a fictitious business name but must inform clients of the details**
 - C. Only use their personal name in practice**
 - D. Change names at any time without notifying clients**
- 2. What is generally required in cases of suspected abuse of a minor?**
 - A. Direct confrontation of the alleged abuser**
 - B. Immediate reporting to law enforcement or child protective services**
 - C. Consultation with a supervisor**
 - D. Notification of the minor's school**
- 3. Under California law, how long must clinical records be retained by LPCCs?**
 - A. For one year from the last service**
 - B. For a minimum of five years**
 - C. For a minimum of seven years from the last service**
 - D. Indefinitely until the client requests deletion**
- 4. What should a counselor do if a client reports being beaten by a family member?**
 - A. Encourage the client to confront the abuser**
 - B. Discuss the client's options for protection**
 - C. Report the incident to the police immediately**
 - D. Advise the client to forgive the family member**
- 5. What minimum age allows a minor to independently consent to treatment for drug use?**
 - A. 12 years old**
 - B. 14 years old**
 - C. 16 years old**
 - D. 18 years old**

- 6. What is necessary when a father brings his son to counseling but the mother has sole legal custody?**
- A. Verbal consent from the father is sufficient**
 - B. Written consent from the mother must be obtained**
 - C. The counseling session may proceed without consent**
 - D. The counselor can choose to ignore custody arrangements**
- 7. What should counselors do when they recognize signs of potential child abuse?**
- A. Document the signs without taking further action**
 - B. Report the abuse according to legal mandates**
 - C. Discuss with the child what they should do**
 - D. Contact the child's parents before reporting**
- 8. What documentation must a counselor keep when providing online therapy?**
- A. None, since it is virtual therapy**
 - B. Only session summaries**
 - C. Written or verbal consent from the client**
 - D. Reports of all clients' complaints**
- 9. What is the key principle behind confidentiality in counseling?**
- A. It allows for therapy to proceed without interruptions**
 - B. It protects the client's private information from being disclosed without consent**
 - C. It ensures all information is shared with law enforcement**
 - D. It requires only verbal consent for information sharing**
- 10. What is true about providing counseling over the Internet for a client moving cities?**
- A. Only allowed if the client moves to a different state**
 - B. Acceptable if the client remains in the licensed state**
 - C. Unacceptable under any circumstances**
 - D. Allowed only if in-person sessions are also offered**

Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. According to California law, what can an LPCC in private practice do regarding business names?

A. Choose any name without restrictions

B. Use a fictitious business name but must inform clients of the details

C. Only use their personal name in practice

D. Change names at any time without notifying clients

Using a fictitious business name is allowed for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs) in private practice under California law, provided that certain regulations are adhered to. Specifically, LPCCs must ensure that clients are informed of the details surrounding the fictitious name being used. This requirement is in place to maintain transparency and to help clients understand the context and credibility of the practice they are engaging with. The necessity to inform clients establishes trust and ensures that they are fully aware of the professional background behind the name, which is particularly important in the mental health field. This approach helps to prevent any potential misrepresentations and aligns with ethical practices that are crucial to client welfare. It emphasizes the significance of informed consent and ensures that clients are aware they are receiving services from a licensed professional, regardless of the name being used.

2. What is generally required in cases of suspected abuse of a minor?

A. Direct confrontation of the alleged abuser

B. Immediate reporting to law enforcement or child protective services

C. Consultation with a supervisor

D. Notification of the minor's school

In cases of suspected abuse of a minor, immediate reporting to law enforcement or child protective services is generally required. This requirement stems from mandatory reporting laws that exist in many jurisdictions, which obligate certain professionals, including counselors, to report any reasonable suspicion of child abuse. The purpose of these laws is to ensure the safety and welfare of the child by allowing authorities who are trained to investigate such matters to take action promptly. Immediately reporting suspected abuse is essential because it helps protect vulnerable minors from ongoing harm. Authorities can then assess the situation and intervene if necessary. This proactive approach prioritizes the child's safety over all other considerations. It's crucial for licensed professionals to be familiar with the specific reporting laws in their state or jurisdiction, as the obligations may vary. While consultation with a supervisor may be an appropriate step in some contexts, particularly for professional guidance, it does not fulfill the legal obligation to report. Direct confrontation of the alleged abuser or notifying the minor's school could potentially compromise the investigation or put the child in further risk. Therefore, the most universally accepted and legally mandated action is to report to the relevant child protection authorities.

3. Under California law, how long must clinical records be retained by LPCCs?

- A. For one year from the last service**
- B. For a minimum of five years**
- C. For a minimum of seven years from the last service**
- D. Indefinitely until the client requests deletion**

The correct answer is that clinical records must be retained for a minimum of seven years from the last service. This requirement is outlined in California law, specifically within the guidelines set by the Business and Professions Code and related regulations governing licensed mental health professionals. The seven-year retention period is designed to ensure that practitioners maintain adequate documentation for legal, clinical, and administrative purposes. This includes supporting continuity of care, providing necessary information in response to client inquiries, ensuring compliance with legal standards, and serving as protection should any legal issues arise regarding the care provided. This timeframe is particularly important because mental health records can be subject to review in various contexts, including potential malpractice claims, audits, and requests for information from clients or other entities. By adhering to this seven-year requirement, LPCCs fulfill their ethical and legal obligations while also promoting the welfare of their clients through responsible record-keeping practices.

4. What should a counselor do if a client reports being beaten by a family member?

- A. Encourage the client to confront the abuser**
- B. Discuss the client's options for protection**
- C. Report the incident to the police immediately**
- D. Advise the client to forgive the family member**

When a client reports being beaten by a family member, discussing the client's options for protection is the most appropriate course of action. This choice emphasizes the counselor's role in providing support and empowering the client to understand their rights and available resources. By focusing on protection options, the counselor can guide the client through identifying potential safety measures, such as seeking shelter, accessing legal resources, or obtaining a restraining order. This approach prioritizes the immediate safety and well-being of the client, fostering an environment where they can explore their feelings and choices without feeling pressured. The other responses do not adequately address the critical need for the client's safety and well-being. Encouraging the client to confront the abuser could put them at further risk and may not be a feasible option depending on the context of the relationship and the nature of the abuse. Reporting the incident to the police is an important step in cases of domestic violence; however, it should be discussed with the client first to ensure they are comfortable with taking that step. Advising the client to forgive the family member may dismiss the severity of their experience and does not support their immediate need for safety or emotional healing. Thus, discussing protection options reflects a balanced and client-centered approach.

5. What minimum age allows a minor to independently consent to treatment for drug use?

- A. 12 years old
- B. 14 years old
- C. 16 years old**
- D. 18 years old

In many states, the legal framework allows minors aged 12 years and older to consent to treatment for substance use without needing parental approval. This provision recognizes the importance of confidentiality and encourages minors to seek help for drug-related issues without the fear of disclosing their situations to their parents or guardians. The rationale behind allowing minors as young as 12 to consent is rooted in the understanding that drug use can have serious health implications, and early intervention can be crucial. By empowering minors with the ability to make decisions regarding their treatment, it acknowledges their capacity to understand the consequences of their actions and the importance of seeking help. You have noted that the correct answer is 16 years old, which may stem from confusion with other aspects of consent laws that apply to different health services. However, the age of 12 is typically referenced in the context of substance abuse treatment in various jurisdictions, offering minors protection to seek necessary intervention.

6. What is necessary when a father brings his son to counseling but the mother has sole legal custody?

- A. Verbal consent from the father is sufficient
- B. Written consent from the mother must be obtained**
- C. The counseling session may proceed without consent
- D. The counselor can choose to ignore custody arrangements

When a father brings his son to counseling but the mother has sole legal custody, obtaining written consent from the mother is necessary for the counseling to proceed legally and ethically. In legal custody arrangements where one parent has sole custody, that parent holds the authority to make significant decisions regarding the child's welfare, including consent for mental health treatment. This situation underscores the importance of adhering to legal custody agreements, which are designed to protect the rights of the custodial parent and the best interests of the child. The absence of the mother's consent may lead to ethical dilemmas and potential legal ramifications for the counselor, including allegations of violating the custodial agreement. Ensuring that proper consent is obtained aligns with ethical standards in counseling practice, particularly respecting the legal rights of parents regarding their children's care. This approach also fosters trust and open communication among parents involved in the care of the child, which is crucial in a therapeutic context.

7. What should counselors do when they recognize signs of potential child abuse?

- A. Document the signs without taking further action**
- B. Report the abuse according to legal mandates**
- C. Discuss with the child what they should do**
- D. Contact the child's parents before reporting**

When counselors recognize signs of potential child abuse, the appropriate action is to report the abuse according to legal mandates. This requirement is grounded in both ethical and legal obligations that prioritize the safety and well-being of the child. Counselors are often considered mandated reporters, which means that they are legally required to report suspected child abuse to the appropriate authorities immediately. Reporting potential child abuse is crucial because it initiates an investigation by professionals trained to assess the situation and ensure the child's safety. Delaying or circumventing this process can put the child at risk of continued harm. Additionally, notifying the appropriate authorities protects the counselor from legal repercussions that could arise from failing to report suspected abuse. Other actions, such as merely documenting the signs, discussing what the child should do, or contacting the child's parents before reporting, do not fulfill the legal and ethical responsibility of a counselor in such situations. These alternatives can lead to further harm, as they may not address the immediate need for intervention and protection for the child.

8. What documentation must a counselor keep when providing online therapy?

- A. None, since it is virtual therapy**
- B. Only session summaries**
- C. Written or verbal consent from the client**
- D. Reports of all clients' complaints**

In the context of providing online therapy, maintaining appropriate documentation is essential for both ethical practice and legal compliance. Obtaining and keeping written or verbal consent from the client is crucial. Consent serves as a foundational element of informed consent, ensuring that clients are fully aware of the nature of the therapy, including its virtual format, any potential risks, and their rights. Written consent is often preferred as it provides clear evidence that the client has agreed to participate in therapy under specific conditions. In situations where written consent is not feasible, obtaining verbal consent can still be acceptable, but it should be documented appropriately in the client's file. This practice helps protect both the client and the counselor by creating a record that the client has acknowledged and accepted the terms of the therapy. Overall, keeping records of consent demonstrates respect for client autonomy and promotes accountability within the counseling profession, particularly in the evolving landscape of online services, where ethical guidelines need to be strictly adhered to.

9. What is the key principle behind confidentiality in counseling?

- A. It allows for therapy to proceed without interruptions**
- B. It protects the client's private information from being disclosed without consent**
- C. It ensures all information is shared with law enforcement**
- D. It requires only verbal consent for information sharing**

The key principle behind confidentiality in counseling is that it protects the client's private information from being disclosed without consent. This foundation of confidentiality is crucial for establishing a trusting therapeutic relationship, where clients feel safe to openly share their thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment or repercussions. The assurance that what they communicate will remain private encourages clients to engage more fully in the therapeutic process and aids in their healing and personal growth. Confidentiality is central to ethical practice for counselors. It not only fosters trust but also upholds clients' rights to privacy and autonomy. Exceptions to this principle exist, such as instances where there is a risk of harm to the client or others, but the general rule is that client information must remain confidential unless consent is explicitly given. This understanding of confidentiality is essential for practicing effectively as a counselor, as it delineates the boundaries of what can be shared and emphasizes the counselor's responsibility to protect client information.

10. What is true about providing counseling over the Internet for a client moving cities?

- A. Only allowed if the client moves to a different state**
- B. Acceptable if the client remains in the licensed state**
- C. Unacceptable under any circumstances**
- D. Allowed only if in-person sessions are also offered**

Providing counseling over the Internet is generally acceptable as long as the client remains within the licensed state of the counselor. This means that as long as the client does not cross state lines, the counselor can continue to offer services remotely without violating any state laws or regulations regarding licensure. Maintaining the client's residency within the licensed state allows the professional to adhere to the ethical and legal guidelines established by state licensing boards. The other options present situations where the feasibility of providing online counseling may be misinterpreted. For example, if the client moves to a different state, the counselor would not have the legal authority to continue providing services unless they are also licensed in that new state. Likewise, stating that counseling is unacceptable under any circumstances disregards the legal framework that allows for online counseling, as long as licensing regulations are followed. Lastly, indicating that counseling is only permissible if in-person sessions are offered conflicts with the growing acceptance of teletherapy, especially when in-person options may not be practical or necessary for all clients.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://lpcclawethics.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!