

Charleston/Dorchester Community
Mental Health Center

**EXPLOITATION OF CLIENTS;
GIFTS TO STAFF**

The Charleston/Dorchester Community Mental Health Center affirms that no action taken by a Center staff person shall be exploitative of Center clients. Center staff shall avoid all situations and actions that might be exploitative and/or that have the appearance of exploitation.

It is, therefore, generally against Center policy for staff to accept gifts, money, or services, or to borrow money or goods from Center clients or their families. Such policy is consistent with the intent and requirements of the State Ethics Act.

It is recognized, however, that Center clients often develop important therapeutic relationships with Center staff. On some occasions such clients wish to give presents to Center staff. While the Center discourages the giving of such presents, it is recognized that on rare occasions it would be counter-therapeutic for the Center staff to not accept these presents.

On such occasions, it is acceptable for the Center staff to receive a small present of nominal value. The receipt of any such gift shall be documented in the client's medical record. A written statement shall be provided within two working days to the staff person's supervisor regarding receipt of the gift.

It is the responsibility of each supervisor to ensure that all staff persons are trained so that offers of gifts can be handled in a manner that is consistent with the intent of this policy, sensitive and not counter-therapeutic.



Thomas G. Hiers, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Date

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