

## **Family Service Agency Continuing Education Workshop**

### **Legal, Ethical and Regulatory Update**

Joseph C. George, Ph.D., J.D.

**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2017    **Time:** 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

**Location:** Seacliff Inn 7500 Old Dominion Court Aptos, CA

#### **Course Description:**

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the major ethical and legal issues confronting licensed mental health professionals in practice. The course will cover the following topics: legal, ethical and regulatory update: licensing Board trends, tips and traps; confidentiality and privilege; record-keeping and storage guidelines; boundary issues and multiple relationships; consultation and supervision; dangerousness and duty to protect; suicide risk management and prevention; mandatory reporting. Participants will also work in small groups to address the legal and ethical issues presented in a series of hypothetical fact patterns. Participants will be given one hypothetical situation at a time. The small groups will report back to the whole and discuss the conclusions of their group.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Participants will be better able to understand and implement laws and regulations.
2. Participants will be better able to determine the standard of care in his/her profession.
3. Participants will be better able to assess potential confidentiality breaches at his/her office.
4. Participants will be better able to understand the risks inherent in multiple relationships.
5. Participants will be better able to incorporate changes in his/her duty to warn protocol
6. Participants will be better able to comply with mandatory reporting guidelines and requirements.
7. Participants will be better able to understand subpoenas.

#### **Biographical Statement:**

Joseph C. George, Ph.D., J.D. was originally trained as a psychologist and is both a licensed attorney and licensed psychologist in California. After completing an internship in clinical psychology, Joseph C. George commenced to fulfill an obligation to the United States Air Force. He was assigned, as a psychologist, to David Grant Medical Center, Travis Air Force Base, California. While at Travis, he earned his law degree at McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific, in Sacramento, California

Dr. George was a comment staff writer and assistant editor for the Pacific Law Journal at McGeorge and authored an article proposing a mandatory reporting law for incidents of psychotherapist-patient sex. Subsequently, after earning his law degree and fulfilling his obligation to the Air Force, he served as a member of the California Senate Task Force on Psychotherapist-Patient Sexual Relationships, and authored Civil Code 43.93 which imposes liability on psychotherapists for sexual contact with a current patient and with a former patient for up to two years following termination of the psychotherapist-patient relationship.