



National Education Alliance for Borderline Personality Disorder Family Connections™ Leader Code of Conduct for Clinicians

To clinicians who volunteer their time to Family Connections™(FC), we are grateful. In a sense, it is “above and beyond” the call of duty to be there for our families, who are in such great need.

It is very important to respect the integrity of the Family Connections™ model. It is an empirically-based validated model that has been proven helpful when delivered as it is designed in its entirety. We know it can be a challenge to refrain from sharing additional information that can help. Especially for those clinicians intensively trained in DBT, it’s tempting to present DBT or other skills and resources that may be deemed helpful, however, they are not part of the FC curriculum.

NEABPD owns the copyright to Family Connections™. Unless approved by NEABPD in writing, using pieces of FC in any manner other than the approved curriculum constitutes a violation of copyright law. As an FC leader, you are expected to teach the modules as presented, and not introduce other skills and resources unless you receive prior approval from the Family Connections™ Committee on behalf of NEABPD.

We encourage you to co-lead with a person who is a family member of someone with BPD. This allows you to acknowledge and support them, thus reflecting **peer validation**. It’s important that the co-leader relationship be an equal partnership. Although clinicians typically have significant subject matter expertise and can easily model mindfulness, validation, and other skills, **peer validation of the family member leader is the foundation of the FC model**.

Lastly, **Family Connections™ is free**. No one may charge for FC courses. As a volunteer leader, although you may be paid by your employer to teach the program, you will not receive compensation from NEABPD nor from the families who participate in your group. You are also prohibited from receiving compensation or any other benefit from any other source for your role as a Family Connections™ leader. Donations made in support of the program should be made to NEABPD through www.neabpd.org.

All Family Connections™ courses are sponsored by NEABPD and all participants need to apply to www.neabpd.org. If you are already working with a potential participant as a clinician, please notify NEABPD so that person can be placed in a course that you are not leading.

If there is a participant who expresses a desire to work with you as a clinician for themselves or a family member, please wait until the course ends in order to avoid a conflict of interest, and/or making other participants uncomfortable. This also reduces any possibility that confidential information could be shared with the group inadvertently.

I have read the above information from NEABPD about leading Family Connections™ and I agree to abide by the rules as explained in this document.

Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

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