

## **Ethics Code Task Force (ECTF) Meeting Summary – April 30-May 1, 2026**

The Ethics Code Task Force (ECTF) held a multi-day, in-person meeting from April 30 to May 1, 2026. Over the past year, the ECTF has met virtually twice each month to advance its work on revising the APA Ethics Code. During the May 2026 meeting, the Task Force reviewed, discussed, and edited specific sections of the revised Code and outlined next steps for the review process, including determining the timeline for releasing the revised Code for public comment. This process will be carried out by the ECTF in coordination with the Ethics Committee.

### **Introduction:**

The Task Force was charged with developing a draft Ethics Code that is both visionary and transformational, while remaining a leading practical resource for ethical guidance in psychological science, education, and practice. The revised Code is intended to preserve elements of the current Ethics Code that protect the public and support the discipline and profession. It is designed to serve both the profession and the broader field of psychology, addressing the wide range of roles and responsibilities psychologists hold in working with individuals, groups, organizations, communities, and systems. The new draft also reflects scientific and technological advances, the growth of psychology as a field, and the central importance of diversity, culture, and social justice.

### **April 30-May 1, 2026 Meeting:**

The ECTF Chairs outlined the agenda for the meeting and began with a review of the progress made over the past year in evaluating comments submitted on the revised Code, including feedback related to: (a) the Principles and (b) the Standards. Following this review and discussion, the Chairs addressed the inclusion of language in the revised Code related to the concept of a “Reasonable Psychologist,” which is spread throughout the document. The discussion focused on centralizing the concept to apply to all standards without needing to be repeated in each separate standard.

Following this discussion, the ECTF reviewed the standards within the Testing and Assessment section, along with the public comments received, to determine whether language should be revised. The standards reviewed included:

- a) 10.05 Maintaining Security of Test Materials
- b) 10.06 Third-Party Observation
- c) 10.07 Release of Test Data

During its deliberations, the ECTF considered a range of perspectives reflected in the submitted comments, including concerns related to test integrity, client rights, and legal and regulatory implications. The Task Force also discussed how revisions to these standards are related to evolving assessment practices, and the overarching goals of clarity, fairness, and ethical guidance for psychologists.

Following their discussion of the standards in the Testing and Assessment section, ECTF members reviewed the standards within the Technology section, along with the public comments submitted on these topics. This portion of the meeting focused on issues related to social media, emerging technologies, the use of technology in psychological practice, data security, and ethical considerations such as confidentiality, privacy, and informed consent. The Task Force examined how these comments reflected evolving professional expectations and the practical challenges psychologists face when integrating technology into their work.

### **Review of the Task Force Meeting Discussions with Liaisons:**

Whenever the ECTF holds a full-day meeting, whether in person or virtually, it reserves the final hour to provide updates on its discussions and to receive input from representatives of APA boards and committees, divisions, state associations, and other stakeholder groups. Consistent with this practice, liaisons from various groups joined the Task Force for a discussion hour at the conclusion of the April 30, 2026 meeting.

Appointed liaisons were invited to register in advance to participate in the open discussion session held from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). During this session, Task Force members provided an update on progress related to the revised Ethics Code, including: (a) a summary of discussions concerning the testing and assessment standards, and (b) updates on discussions and decisions related to the technology standards. Task Force members also responded to several questions and concerns raised by the liaisons, including: (a) the application and use of the revised Code by state legislatures, and (b) the timeline for presenting the revised Code to the Council of Representatives.

**Timeline for the Comment Period and Revision Process:**

In December 2024, the ECTF completed its work on a revised version of the Ethics Code, which was posted for public comment beginning December 19, 2024. The Task Force invited public feedback on the draft Code during a 90-day comment period that closed on March 19, 2025. The ECTF was particularly interested in comments addressing the relevance and adequacy of the proposed revisions across the diverse areas in which psychologists work.

Public comments were collected through the APA comment website. Individuals submitting feedback were asked to indicate whether they were commenting in a personal capacity or on behalf of a group or organization (which they were asked to identify). Respondents were also asked to specify whether they were members of the public, non-psychologist mental health professionals, other professionals, graduate students, or psychologists.

In addition, individuals were asked to provide feedback in the following areas: (a) General Comments; (b) Specific Comments related to the Introduction; (c) paragraphs addressing the Relationship Between the Principles and Standards; (d) each of the individual Principles; and (e) each of the Standard sections. The ECTF received more than 2,650 specific comments. However, because many respondents included section-specific feedback within the General Comments area, it is estimated that more than 3,000 comments were submitted pertaining to specific sections of the Code.