

Ethical Standards and the Military Family

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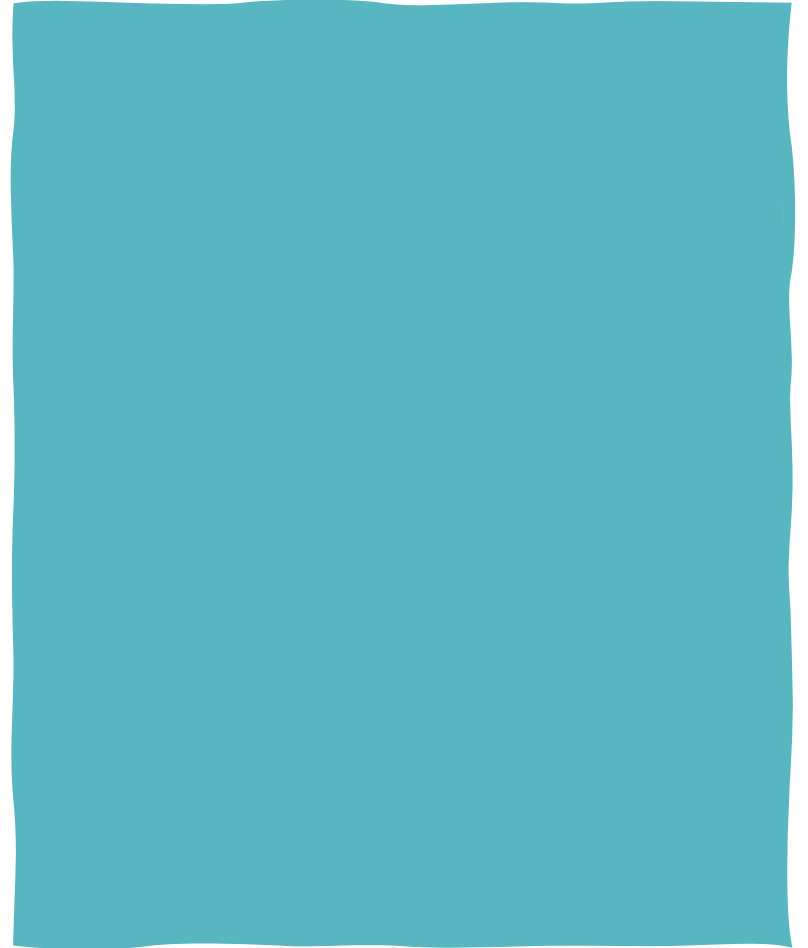
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AGENDA

- Understand the importance of being accountable as a behavior analyst providing services military families
- Understand the ethical considerations regarding providing services to military families and related cultural considerations
- Understand the unique challenges military families with autistic children face

Ethical Standards, Caregivers, and the Behavior Analyst



Core Principles & Caregivers

- Benefits others
 - Individualized treatment plans
 - Coordinating services with another or new provider
 - Seek to understand what matters most to the caregiver(s)





Core Principles & Caregivers

- Treat others with compassion, dignity, and respect
 - The privilege of providing
 - Self-sufficiency
 - Control what you can

Core Principles & Caregivers

- Behave with integrity
 - Delivering services
 - Scale concerns
 - Provide high quality work products



THE TIME
IS ALWAYS
RIGHT TO DO
WHAT IS RIGHT

Core Principles & Caregivers

- Ensure your competence
 - Military life is not the same as civilian life
 - Learn the language
 - Understand the customs

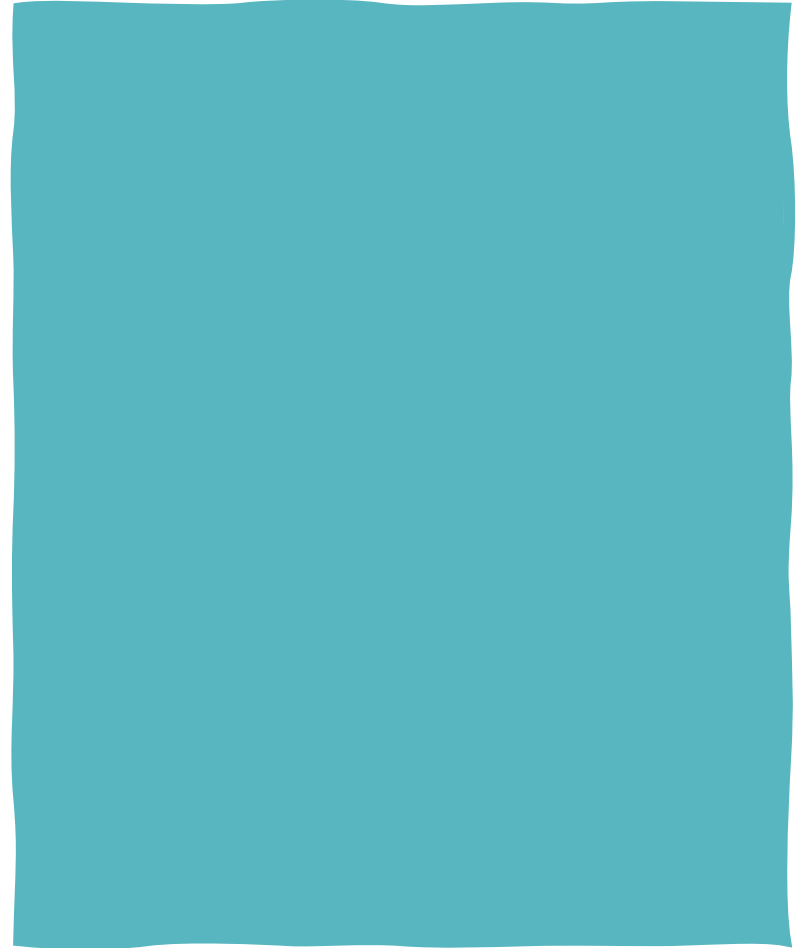




Ethics Standards

- 3.16 Appropriately transition services
 - Develop individualized transition plans – for the actual transition
 - Understand what factors need to be taken into consideration
 - Give caregivers a copy
 - Explain it to them
 - Coordinate care with new ABA providers
 - Write a discharge summary – review that with the caregivers

What Research Shows About the Military Family





Stress and the Military Caregiver

- March of 2021
- “Improvements aim to create a beneficiary-and-parent-centered model of care...into one comprehensive approach focused on the use of evidence-based interventions”
- Addition of outcome measure to evaluate parent stress
 - “A measure to assess parental stress and impact of the comprehensive services offered under the policy update as a means to reduce parent stress”



PARENTING STRESS

- Stress influenced by (Russo & Fallon, 2015)
 - Relocation, frequency of deployment, rank, etc.
 - Factors largely outside of the family's ability to control them
- Example: Relocation
 - Difficult accessing needed interventions
 - Limited availability and proximity of providers
 - Lack of continuity among service plans
 - Unsatisfactory quality of school interventions
 - Having to start over
 - Lack of external support

STRESS AND THE MILITARY

- Hayes and Watson (2013) found greater parenting stress is associated with:
 - Families of children ASD than either families of children with other disabilities or neurotypical children
- Higher levels of parental stress associated with (Bromley et al.2004; Brookman Frazee et al.2012)
 - Reduced social support
 - Financial strain
 - Difficulty accessing diagnostic and therapeutic services
 - A younger child with ASD



MOVING IN THE MILITARY

- Military families relocate or PCS (permanent change of station) approximately three times as often as nonmilitary families (Beuttner et al. 2011)
 - Typical relocations for active duty military occur every two to five years (Freuler and Baranek 2016)
- Frequent relocations related to (Burrell et al. 2006)
 - Lower marital happiness, retention in the military, and physical and psychological health
- Family may feel stress as a result of the potential loss or change in their social support systems (Drummet et al. 2003)
- Children may display more behavior problems as they adjust to their new environment (Booth et al. 2007)
- Causes interruption of therapeutic services and disruption of routines - which can lead to skill loss and problem behavior (Sterling-Turner and Jordan 2007)



Questions for the Military Parent



How can a behavior analyst support the military family during a permanent change of station?

How can the ABA team
support the beneficiary and
family during frequent TDYs
and deployments?

What should the behavior analyst consider when a service member has come home after deployment?

Are there other stressors that
may affect the military family
for ABA providers to
consider?

Do military families
experience a stigma due to an
autism diagnosis?

Questions?

Thank you

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