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PSY632 Assignment 1 Solution

Fall 2026

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PSY632 — Theory & Practice of Counseling

Assignment No. 1 — Fall 2026 | Sample Solution | Total Marks: 20 | Due Date: 6 November 2026

Lesson 06: Ethical & Legal Issues in Counseling. For each scenario, the ethical issue is identified and justified in two brief points.

Scenario 1: Disclosing a student's counseling details to parents

Identification: Breach of confidentiality.

• A client's personal and emotional details belong to the client. A counselor may share them only with the client's consent, or when the law requires it, or when someone is in serious danger — none of which applied here.

• Disclosing without consent breaks the trust on which counseling depends, and it may harm the student once private concerns are known to others.

Scenario 2: Recording a session without explaining its use or gaining consent

Identification: Recording without informed consent.

• Before recording, the client must be told the purpose (professional training), who will see or hear the recording, and how it will be stored — and must agree freely.

• Starting to record first and explaining later, or never, removes the client's choice and violates the client's autonomy.

Scenario 3: Treating a case beyond one's training, without supervision or referral

Identification: Practising beyond competence.

• A counselor must work only within the limits of their training and experience. Symptoms needing specialized psychiatric assessment and management are outside this counselor's competence.

• The ethical step is to seek supervision and refer the client to an appropriate specialist, instead of continuing alone.

Scenario 4: Referring clients to a family member's clinic for hidden financial benefit

Identification: Conflict of interest and undisclosed financial gain.

• Referring clients to a clinic owned by a close family member, while receiving money for each referral, sets the therapist's financial interest against the client's interest.

• Such an arrangement must be disclosed, and the client must be left free to choose. Hiding it exploits the client's trust in the therapist's advice.