



**Presentation:** *12 Reasons Not to Report an Ethics Violation.* Dr. Jon Bailey (1 Ethics CEU)

#### ABSTRACT

Our Professional and Ethical Compliance Codes for Behavior Analysts, AKA “The Code” serves two purposes: Antecedents to set the occasion for ethical conduct and a provision for Consequences for failure to follow The Code. The antecedent function is achieved by specific recommendations for clinical practice (e.g. 2.07 Maintaining Records, 3.01(a) conducting a functional assessment prior to reduction programming) as well as general advice for the practitioner (e.g. 1.01 Reliance on Scientific Knowledge— behavior analysts rely on scientific knowledge to guide their practice).

It takes considerable training for newly trained behavior analysts to realize the implications of all the antecedents and a quite different repertoire for them to realize that they are required to participate in the monitoring and reporting of violations of their colleagues (7.02(a) Ethical Violations by Others and Risk of Harm).

In this paper I will describe and give examples of a dozen or so reasons I’ve encountered over the past five years for not filing a “Notice” of ethical violation with the BACB. I will attempt to counter some of these objections with steps behavior analysts can take to prepare themselves to fulfill their duties to maintain the high standards of our field.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES—Participants will be able to...

1. Describe at least five of the most common reasons given for not reporting a colleague.
2. Discuss the consequences of not fulfilling their responsibilities under The Code.
3. Describe some steps that can be taken to encourage colleagues to submit a formal complaint if an informal resolution is not possible.