



ELEVATING THE SPECTRUM
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM

Whistleblower/Complaint Resolution Policy

In keeping with the policy of maintaining the highest standards of conduct and ethics, Ascendigo Autism Services ("Ascendigo") will investigate complaints of suspected fraudulent or dishonest use or misuse of its resources or property by staff, board members, consultants, volunteers, or clients. To maintain the highest standards of service, Ascendigo will also investigate complaints concerning its programs and services.

Staff, board members, consultants, volunteers, clients, and community members are encouraged to report suspected fraudulent or dishonest conduct or problems with services provided, pursuant to the procedures set forth below. This policy supplements, and does not replace, any procedures required by law, regulation, or funding source requirements.

Reporting. A person's concerns about possible fraudulent or dishonest use or misuse of resources or property, or program operation, should be reported: to the Ascendigo Human Resources Manager (if an employee or volunteer); to the Chairperson of the Ascendigo Board of Directors (if a board member); to the Ascendigo President/CEO (if a client or community member). If, for any reason, a person finds it difficult to report his or her concerns to such person, s/he may report the concerns directly to the President/CEO and/or the Chairperson of the Ascendigo Board of Directors. Alternately, to facilitate reporting of suspected violations where the reporter wishes to remain anonymous, a written statement may be submitted to one of the individuals listed above.

Investigation. All relevant matters, including suspected but unproved matters, will be promptly reviewed and analyzed, with documentation of the receipt, retention, investigation, and treatment of the complaint.

Appropriate corrective action will be taken, if necessary, and findings may be communicated to the reporting person and his or her supervisor, if appropriate. Investigations may be conducted by independent persons such as auditors and/or attorneys. Investigators will endeavor to maintain appropriate confidentiality, but confidentiality is not guaranteed.

No Retaliation. No director, officer, employee, volunteer, or client who in good faith reports suspected fraudulent or dishonest use or misuse of its resources or property or complaints concerning the services it provides and programs Ascendigo runs shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment or other consequence. An employee who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. This Whistleblower/Complaint Resolution Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise serious concerns within the organization prior to seeking resolution outside the organization. The Policy is in addition to any non-retaliation requirements contained in the Ascendigo Personnel Policies or required by law.

This protection from retaliation is not intended to prohibit supervisors from taking action, including disciplinary action, in the usual scope of their duties and based on valid performance-related factors. Individuals making complaints must be cautious to avoid baseless allegations; employees who intentionally make false allegations are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Ascendigo Personnel Policies.

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The undersigned Secretary of the Corporation acknowledges that the above policy was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Corporation at a meeting duly called and held and at which a quorum was present.

Sallie Bernard

Sallie Bernard
Secretary

As approved by Ascendigo Board of Directors on September 16, 2019.