

Ethics Violations & the Maryland Athletic Trainer

What to do if I suspect an infraction has occurred

Recognizing an Ethics Violation 01

If something doesn't seem or feel right, chances are, there might be a problem. Common examples of NATA Code of Ethics Violations are:

- Practicing without appropriate education, certification/license
- Failure to maintain patient confidentiality
- Substance abuse or intoxication while performing professional duties
- Abuse of a patient (mental, physical, financial)
- Betting/gambling on athletic events with information obtained through the practice of athletic training

Follow the Chain of Command 03

If immediate change in behavior/actions does not occur with the individual in question, speak with your direct leadership (supervisor/employer) to ensure they are aware of the situation. You can always reach out to your MATA leadership with questions.

This education brought to you by the MATA Ethics Committee:

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Addressing the Situation/Individual 02

Talk with the individual to see if they are aware they may be in violation of the NATA's Code of Ethics, and/or our professions' other governing body ethics principles. Respectful and open communication with our colleagues helps keep us accountable and our patients safe!

Notify or File a Complaint 04

State and National resources are listed below:

- **MATA Executive Committee:** <https://www.marylandathletictrainers.org/leadership>
- **MATA Ethics Committee:** mataethics@gmail.com
- **Maryland Board of Physicians:** https://www.mbp.state.md.us/resource_information/res_con/resource_consumer_complaints.aspx
- **NATA COPE:** <https://www.nata.org/committee-professional-ethics>

[Criminal offenses should always be reported to the appropriate authorities!](#)

