

Ethics are a set of guidelines that should be followed by psychologists carrying out research. They are provided by the British Psychological Society (BPS) and the American Psychological Association (APA) which oversees the work of psychologists.

Ethics are not simply a question of right or wrong.

⑦ Giving advice

Psychological advice must only be given if the psychologist is qualified in the area that the advice is requested in.

⑥ Right to withdraw

Participants should be aware of their right to withdraw from the investigation at any time. This may be done retrospectively by revoking permission for their data to be used.

① Informed consent

Participants should give informed consent; they should be aware of the true nature of the study. In studies involving children, informed parental consent should be obtained. Payment should never be used to induce risk taking behaviour.



⑤ Confidentiality

The source of all information should remain confidential. Participants should be informed as early as possible if confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

② Deception

Intentional deception over the purpose of the investigation should be avoided when possible. There must be strong medical or scientific justification for any deception.

③ Debriefing

Participants should be fully debriefed. Their experiences should be discussed to assess any negative effects. Debriefing should be in the form of active intervention before leaving the research facility.

④ Protection from harm

Participants should be protected from emotional and physical harm. They should be asked about any factors which may create risk; i.e. medical conditions - Any risk should be no more than could be expected in the course of daily lifestyle.