

## Identify

Jack is relatively new to counseling and decides to run a mixed-gender group. The group is focused on anger management and conflict resolution. Jack thoroughly prepares for the group, carefully screening and obtaining informed consent before the group starts. Six weeks into the group, a group member known as Carol approaches Jack about a male member making inappropriate sexual remarks to her before and after the group ends. Carol informs Jack she is uncomfortable with the comments and is considering leaving the group. Jack is unsure what to do, so he ignores Carol's report, and she soon drops out of the group.

## Summarize

Jack did follow the ACA Code of Ethics A.2.a and A.2.b, ensuring the group signed an informed consent form. He also did a screening test before the group, implementing the ACA Code of Ethics A.9.a. However, Jack failed to protect his group members as required in ACA Code of Ethics A.9.b and ignored his client's report and plea for help, which could constitute a failure to follow ACA Ethical Code A.12. Jack failed to report harassment, which is against ASCA ethical standard A.10.D and ACA code C.6.a. He also offered no support or resources for the client which violates ASCA ethical standard A. 10. G. Jack also caused harm to his client, making her feel uncomfortable and unsafe, which led to her eventual leave, which violates the ACA Code of Ethics A.4.a.

## Act

Since the group leader did not adhere to ethical guidelines and failed to resolve the conflict by taking the necessary steps, ASCA Ethical Standards C.2.e would require me to eliminate the group. I would notify the group of its need to end, and the group leader would need to report to the supervisor for the following action. Since the counselor could not meet Carol's needs, I would offer her a referral as stated in the ACA Code of Ethics A.11.a. Also, I would recommend Jack adhere to ACA Codes C.2.e, f, and g, seeking further education and guidance.