

## **Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Procedures for Handling Participant Complaints**

The *Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders* is fully committed to conducting all activities in strict conformance with the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists. *The Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders* will comply with all legal and ethical responsibilities to be non-discriminatory in promotional activities, program content and in the treatment of program participants.

The monitoring and assessment of compliance with these standards will be the responsibility of the Training and Education Division Director in consultation with the members of the continuing education committee, and the Conference Chairperson.

While *The Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders* goes to great lengths to assure fair treatment for all participants and attempts to anticipate problems, there will be occasional issues which come to the attention of the conference staff which require intervention and/or action on the part of the conference staff or a representative of *The Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders*.

The following outlines the recommended procedure for handling such grievances.

- When a participant, either orally or in written format, files a grievance and expects action on the complaint, the following actions will be taken.
  1. If the grievance concerns a speaker, the content presented by the speaker, or the style of presentation, the individual filing the grievance will be asked to put his/her comments in written format. The CE Chair will then pass on the comments to the speaker, assuring the confidentiality of the grieved individual.
  2. If the grievance concerns a workshop offering, its content, level of presentation, or the facilities in which the workshop was offered, the conference chair will mediate and will be the final arbitrator. If the participant requests action, the conference chair will:
    - a. attempt to move the participant to another workshop or
    - b. consider providing a credit for a subsequent year's workshop or
    - c. consider providing a partial or full refund of the workshop fee.
    - d. Actions 2b and 2c will require a written note, documenting the grievance, for record keeping purposes. The note need not be signed by the grieved individual.
  - 3. If the grievance concerns *The Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders* CE program, in a specific regard, the CE Chair will attempt to arbitrate.

To File a Grievance, please contact:  
Karen O'Connor, PhD, BCBA, LBA  
205 Portland Ave,  
Columbia MO, 65211  
(573) 884-1775  
[occonnorkv@health.missouri.edu](mailto:occonnorkv@health.missouri.edu)