# Unit 3

Hi Everyone!

In Unit 1, we reviewed the purpose of a functional behavioral assessment, which is to identify a problem behavior, determine the antecedent that prompts the behavior, and identify the consequence that maintains the behavior. This leads to the behavior intervention plan, which takes the information obtained through a functional behavioral assessment and implement strategies that will reduce or eliminate the inappropriate behavior.

Then, in Unit 2, we looked at historical and legal aspects of FBA. We reviewed the three most important pieces of legislation affecting behavior are the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (2004), the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973).

Now, in Unit 3, we are going to be reviewing ethical considerations of Functional Behavior Assessment.

We are going to reference the BACB Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts, section 3.

Section 3 reviews the following ethical considerations:

* 3.01 Behavior-Analytic Assessment.
* 3.02 Medical Consultation.
* 3.03 Behavior-Analytic Assessment Consent.
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* 3.04 Explaining Assessment Results.
* 3.05 Consent-Client Records.

Let’s take a few moments to discuss what is meant by each of these considerations.

Behavior- Analytic Assessment

Behavior analysts conduct current assessments prior to making recommendations or developing behavior-change programs. The type of assessment used is determined by client needs and consent, environmental parameters and other contextual variables.

If a behavior analyst is developing a behavior-reduction program, they must first conduct a functional assessment.

Additionally, behavior analysts have an obligation to collect and graphically display data, using behavior-analytic conventions, in a manner that allows for decisions and recommendations for behavior-change program development.

The next consideration is Medical Consultation.

Behavior analysts must rule out an underlying medical or biological variable if there is any reasonable possibility that a referred behavior is influences by medical or biological variables. In this case, prior to the FBA, behavior analysts should recommend seeking a medical consultation.

Then we have Behavior-Analytic Assessment Consent.

This means that prior to conducting an assessment, behavior analysts must explain to the client the procedure(s) to be used, who will participate, and how the resulting information will be used.

Behavior analysts must obtain the client’s written approval of the assessment procedures before implementing them.

Once the FBA is complete, we would address the next consideration which is Explaining Assessment Results.

Behavior analysts explain assessment results using language and graphic displays of data that are reasonably understandable to the client. It is important that the client or their legal representative understand the terminology that is used when the behavior analyst is explaining the results of the assessment.

The final ethical consideration is that the behavior analyst is Consent-Client Records.

Behavior analysts obtain the written consent of the client before obtaining or disclosing client records from or to other sources, for assessment purposes.