



ACAN: Presentation



This presentation is about Accountant's Confidential Assistance Network (ACAN). ACAN is a peer assistance program authorized and supported by the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy and is administered by the Texas Society of CPAs. The program has statutory confidentiality under Chapter 467 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

ACAN: Course Objective

Relying on statutory confidentiality of ACAN, accountants will consider the ethical requirements of reporting impaired accountants; understand the assistance available to accountants who are impaired from depression or dependency on alcohol and drugs in order that impaired person(s) can receive assistance and meet their ethical obligation to provide zealous representation to clients.

ACAN: Course Summary

- I. Accountants Confidential Assistance Network
- II. The Self-Reporting Requirement and Process
- III. The Investigation Process
- IV. Possible Investigation Outcomes
- V. How do we know if there is a problem?

Course Part I



Accountants Confidential Assistance Network (ACAN)

ACAN: Backdrop

- 20% of U.S. alcoholics are highly functional, middle-aged, well-educated with stable jobs and families
- 11% of full-time workers between the ages of 18–49 have an alcohol problem in a given year.
- About 10 to 12 percent of people who drink become dependent on alcohol.
- Approximately 70,000 CPAs in Texas

ACAN: Mission



Accountants Confidential Assistance Network (ACAN) mission is to assist Texas CPAs who have a job impairing alcohol, drug or mental health problem

IN ORDER THAT

they can return to competent practice.

ACAN: Focus

- ✓ **Inform** Texas accounting students and professionals about common performance impairments, such as alcoholism and mental health issues
- ✓ **Motivate** affected persons to seek help
- ✓ **Support** them in their recovery
- ✓ **Encourage** recovering accountants to share their experience
- ✓ **Alternative** to state board disciplinary actions

ACAN: Program

ACAN Program Components

- ✓ Volunteer Network
- ✓ Confidential Resource
- ✓ Mentors

ACAN Program: Volunteer Network

- **Statewide** volunteer network of CPAs in recovery.
- **Conduct** “peer support” meetings in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio.
- **Available** to all Texas CPAs, CPA candidates, and Accounting Students.
- **Provides** informal assistance to referred CPAs.

ACAN Program: Confidentiality

- **Confidential** phone line: 866-766-ACAN
- **Resource** for information and referrals
 - ✓ To AA, counselors, hospitals, recovery centers
 - ✓ First step to peer assistance
- **Operates** under Texas Health and Safety Code
 - ✓ Civil immunity
 - ✓ Confidential: No accountancy board reporting
- **Confidentiality provided by Statute**

ACAN Program: Mentors

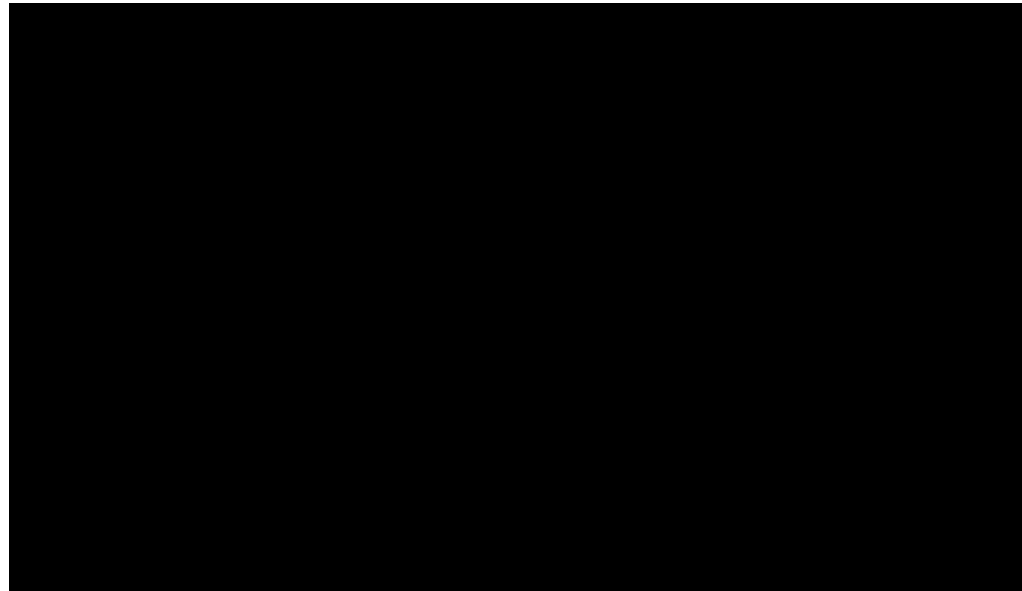
➤ **ACAN Mentors**

- ✓ CPAs from around the state active in ACAN
- ✓ Provide recovery assistance and referrals
- ✓ Receive annual training in peer assistance

➤ **ACAN Mentors receive referrals from**

- ✓ Employers concerned for staff member
- ✓ Individuals with questions or concerns
- ✓ Texas State Board of Public Accountancy

ACAN Program: Availability



ACAN: Contact Information

Craig Nauta, Program Director

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Web: www.tscpa.org (Resource Center)

Toll Free: 866-766-ACAN