1. There is a BCBA in my area who often claims she was“ trained” by well-known behavior analysts. I believe that to be “trained” by someone you should have been their student for a length of time or worked closely with them. This woman has goes to conferences where she sits in the audience and then says she was “trained” by well-recognized behavior analysts. She once received some advice from a leader in the field via email on a research project, and she now claims this person was her “mentor.” I am really disgusted by this, and I feel she is misrepresenting herself to families and other professionals. Would it be unethical of me to email some of these well-known people, tell them what she is saying, and ask them about the “training” they have given her? If you don't like this approach, how would you handle it?
2. What are the ethics related to ending behavioral services because you have not been paid in several months? This happens frequently in my district. I started working with one client in october. It is now March, and I have never received a check. I have called the support coordinator, and she just says sometimes the system is slow. Everyone in our district thinks we have an ethical obligation to provide services so we can't terminate clients over lack of payment. Somewhere, on someone's desk, I am guessing our behavior analysis invoices are just piling up. Our clients have a “right to treatment.” Do we have a “right to be paid?”
3. In our district, there is a BCBA who charges the school district and other agencies a lot of money for providing services to children with autism— and I mean a lot of money. He tells people who are more than just a BCBA that he is one of the very few behavior analysts in the country nationally certified as a “Behavior Analyst for verbal Behavior.” What should I do about this? I am not inclined to approach him and would rather deal with someone else.
4. In my consulting job as a behavior analyst, I have been working with a consumer who is a recipient of Medicaid waiver services. Recently, there was a breakdown in the service authority approval process, meaning that my upcoming hours were not approved in writing. Should I still provide behavior analysis and oversight even if I do not have a written authorization? I know it sounds like an obvious yes, but legally the rules say that if my hours are not approved in advance the agency does not have to pay me.
5. A BCBA works with a mother who homeschools her child.
   The child is a 6-year-old boy with autism. The BCBA has done a functional assessment and has identified the controlling variables for the child's target behavior. In the opinion of the BCBA, the best data collection system for gathering baseline data would require daily entries by the mother. A data-collection system has been designed that is easy to understand and score; however, the mother does not take the data despite the BCBA's best attempts to prompt and reinforce her. This child really needs help, but with no data it will be hard to provide treatment. Should the BCBA terminate services?