

Ethics and Legality in Counseling: Managing Boundaries

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Learning Objectives

- Differentiate boundary crossing and boundary violation
- Examine many types of boundary issues in counseling relationship



Managing Boundaries

Boundary crossing

VS

Boundary violation

What is the difference???

* Slippery slope phenomenon



Managing Boundaries

Do you think boundary crossing benefits counseling relationship?



Boundary Issues



Managing Boundaries: Receiving gifts

Things to consider when giving or receiving gifts:

- The value of the gift
- When in the therapy process is the offering of a gift occurring? i.e.; beginning of the session or at the termination stage
- Clinical implications when accepting or rejecting the gift
- Motivations for accepting or rejecting a client's gift
- Cultural implications of offering a gift



Managing Boundaries: Bartering

- Things to consider:
 - (1) Assess whether the bartering arrangement is risky for your profession
 - (2) Document the bartering arrangement (including value of the goods/services and length of time for the barter arrangement)



Managing Boundaries: Bartering

Things to consider:

(3) Minimize any unique financial arrangements

(4) It is recommended to exchange goods rather than services

(5) If a misunderstanding begins to develop, appoint a mediator to resolve the issue



Managing Boundaries: Relationships with clients

Do you think having a social relationship with your current and former client is ethical???



Managing Boundaries: Relationships with clients

- Your position on socializing with current or former clients
 - Social contact is ongoing or occasional
 - Degree of intimacy
 - Nature of social function/activity
 - Nature of your client problem
- The client population
- The setting you work
- Theoretical approach (i.e.; psychoanalytic vs behavior approach)



Managing Boundaries: Relationships with clients

- **SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP IS A NO-NO!!!**
- **How about physical touch
(non-sexual)???**



Managing Boundaries: Role Blending

**Multiple/Dual relationships
(i.e.; role blending: supervisor-
supervisee relationship)**



Related Code of Ethics

- A.5 *Peranan dan hubungan dengan klien*
- A.6 *Peranan dan hubungan pada tahap individu, kelompok, institusi dan masyarakat*
- A.10 *Fi dan pertukaran barangan dan perkhidmatan*
- C.6.d *Eksploitasi ke atas orang lain*
- F.3 *Hubungan penyeliaan*
- F.10 *Peranan dan hubungan antara pendidik kaunselor dan pelajar*

