

Ethical Boundaries: Avoiding the Slippery Slope

Program Description

Codes of ethics in the health and helping professions all address the avoidance of conflicts of interest and in particular the potential for damage from dual relationships. This session describes the array of boundary issues that are common to professional practice and the conflicts of interest that can result. Participants will utilize decision-making and other models to examine how to avoid such dilemmas and how to set clear, appropriate, and culturally sensitive boundaries when such conflicts are unavoidable.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will:

1. Be able to identify conflicts of interest and understand dual relationships and sexual impropriety as particular forms of conflicts of interest;
2. Distinguish between avoidable dual relationships and those that are not;
3. Understand the variables to weight in responding appropriately to unavoidable dual relationships;
4. Apply the knowledge and skills for boundary setting to case examples;
5. Be familiar with the resources for learning more about dilemmas in this domain of practice.

Target Audience

Clinicians, case managers, social workers, counselors, psychiatrists, psychologists, educators, advocates, health and human service practitioners

Contact Hours

3.0 -5.5 hours

Program Agenda

Available upon request.

Faculty

Dr. Kim Strom is the Smith P. Theimann, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Professional Practice at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work. Dr. Strom teaches in the areas of direct practice, education, and human resource management. Her scholarly interests involve ethics, moral courage, and social work education. She is the former chair of the National Association of Social Workers' National Committee on Inquiry and is active in training, consultation and research on ethics and social work practice. She has written over 60 articles, monographs and chapters on ethics and practice. She is the author of *Straight Talk about Professional Ethics* and *The Ethics of Practice with Minors: High Stakes and Hard Choices* and the forthcoming text *Cultivating Courage*. Dr. Strom-Gottfried is also the co-author of the texts *Best of Boards, Direct Social Work Practice* and *Teaching Social Work Values and Ethics: A Curriculum Resource*. Dr. Strom also held an appointment as the UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities Associate Director for the Academic Leadership Program, which helps prepare and support the next generation of academic leaders. Currently, she serves as Principal

Investigator of the UNC School of Social Work behavioral healthcare contract, and has been recently appointed by the chancellor to serve as Director of the UNC - Chapel Hill Office of Ethics Education and Policy Management.