

Setting Boundaries

“Dual Relationship Issues”

A dual relationship is where two or more roles are mixed up.

Examples:

A supervisor who is a good friend

A coach who is a chauffeur to players

A teacher who becomes attached to students

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Dual Relationships can foster misunderstandings and inappropriate behavior.

Clearly, a counselor who tries to date a client is attempting a dual relationship. Most would agree that such a move is unhealthy. Are all dual relationships inappropriate? Consider the following scenarios.

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Scenario One

- A priest is counseling a young woman whose husband has just left her. She is crying so hard she begins to hyperventilate. Although he does not know her well, his human instinct tells him to place a comforting hand on her shoulder. Is this OK? Why or why not?

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Scenario Two

- A teacher from a small town Catholic elementary school has a 12 year-old join her class. He has been in her class for two weeks. His mother works the evening shift at the factory in another town. He walks to school daily. He lives half a mile from school. It is 4 pm; he is just leaving. It is 0 degrees outside and windy. The teacher offers the boy a ride home. Is this OK? Why or why not?

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Scenario Three

- A youth minister has had an argument with a girl from the choir. To smooth things over she offers to buy two boxes of girl scout cookies from the child. Is this OK? Why or why not?

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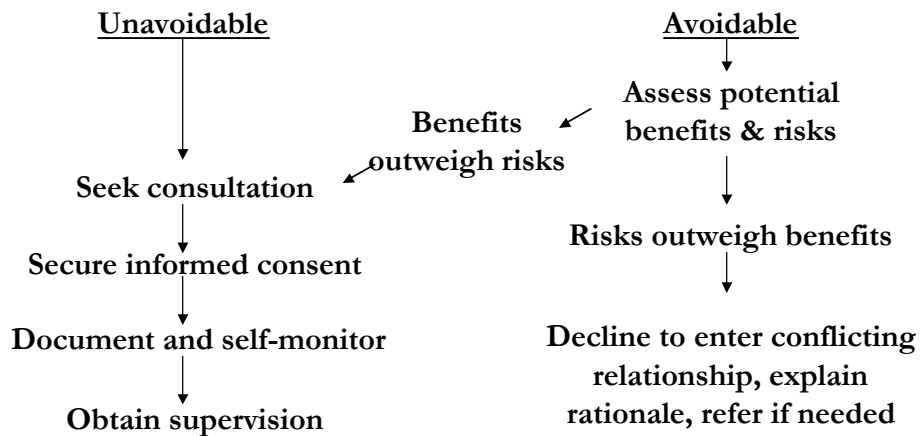
**Things are NOT always black
and white.**

**When faced with questionable
situations, we must choose
wisely.**

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Decision Making Model

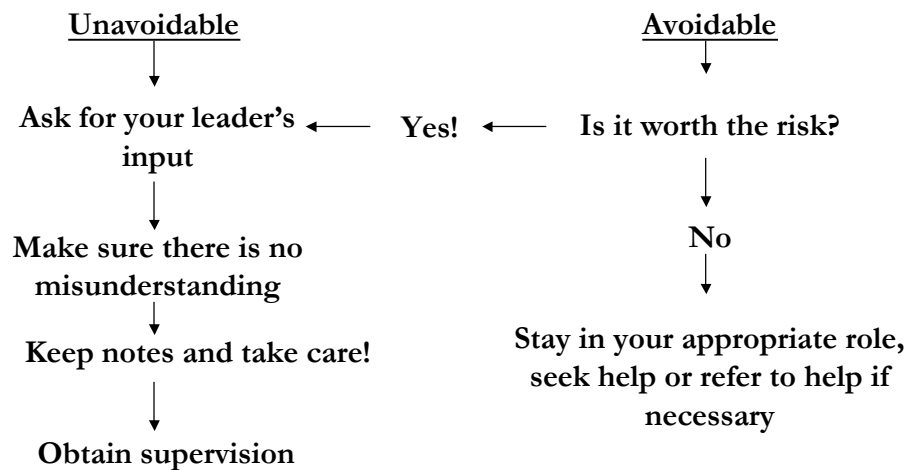
The potential dual relationship is:



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In other words...

If mixing professional and personal boundaries is:



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