



Recognizing Boundary Signs

Some Of The Warning Signs That Professional Boundaries Should Be Attended To Are:

- Frequently thinking of the participant when away from work.
- Frequently planning other participants' visits around the participant's needs.
- Spending free time with the participant.
- Sharing personal information or work concerns with the participant.
- Feeling responsible if the participant is not making the progress that the worker wants or expects them to.
- Noticing more physical touching than is appropriate or sexual content in interactions with the participant.
- Favoring one participant at the expense of another participant or your personal family.
- Keeping secrets with the participant.
- Selective reporting of participant's behavior (i.e. negative or positive behavior).
- Swapping participant assignments.
- Communicating in a guarded and defensive manner when questioned regarding interactions/relationships with the participant.
- Changing dress style for work when working with the participant.
- Receiving of gifts or continued contact/communication with the participant after termination of services.
- Denying the fact that the person is your participant.
- Acting and/or feeling possessive about the participant.
- Giving special attention/treatment to this participant, which differs from that given to other participants.
- Denying that you have crossed the boundary from an effective working relationship to a personal relationship.

(Coltrane & Pugh, 1978)