



Ethics Peer to Peer Consulting Small Group #1

Issue 1: Walk and Talk Therapy

Walk and talk therapy takes your sessions outdoors. It happens in a public park or on nearby trails. The licensee wants to add this to her practice with children, adults, and couples.

Issue 2: Aggressive Dad

Can I terminate a client due to the dad's aggressive behavior toward me? The dad was lurking outside my office this evening angry about a session I had with him and his son. He threatened to call the board and sue me because I cut him off and redirected him from verbally attacking the son during the session. I did say that he could find another therapist, but that if he continued with me I would not allow that behavior in sessions. He was loud, walked up close to me, and I'm pretty sure there was a vein pulsating on his forehead.

Issue 3: Fee Schedule

What are the ethical/legal considerations regarding fee setting for group therapy? Is it ok to charge a single flat fee for a series, as opposed to accepting payment per session? Can I charge it up front?

Issue 4: TV Show Therapist

I'm interested in being a therapist on a reality tv show. Is it ethically sound for a TV show to feature real people receiving real therapy as is shown in Couple's Therapy or on other shows?

Issue 5: Writing About Clients

Is it ethical to ask a client if you can write about their treatment after I've begun working with them? It would be anonymized enough that no one but the client and possibly their significant other would recognize them. The client is high functioning and not considered "vulnerable".

Issue 6: Foster Care Conflicts

A birth parent and a foster parent of a child in the temporary custody of DFCS is my client. Both parents are requesting to be informed about the child's progress in therapy and the progress notes. The foster parent is interested in adopting the child. The birth parent is working on her reunification plan. A part of the child's clinical needs is due to the conflict between the parents. What is my duty to the child, birth parent and the foster parent?

Issue 7: Prospective Client

A therapist receives a telephone call from a prospective client. The prospective client shares that his wife has just informed him of her desire for a divorce, that he needs some help during this trying period of time. The therapist tells him that he has an opening on Friday afternoon and that his fee is \$125 per hour. The appointment is set for that Friday, some four days later. On Wednesday before the scheduled session the client calls in crisis – talking of possible violence aimed at his wife and her new companion. The therapist has second thoughts about taking on such a difficult case and tells the client of his reluctance to proceed and his desire to make a referral to a therapist who deals with this kind of acute problem. The client says that he feels abandoned and will be reporting this to the Board.