

Spotlight on Prevention

Partnering to Protect People with Special Needs

PROTECTING THE BOUNDARIES OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

A Fact Sheet for Staff

The Risks

Unprofessional boundaries place staff and people receiving services at risk

Compromises the care environment for people receiving services and for staff members

Places people receiving services at risk of being traumatized or re-traumatized

Removes opportunity for people receiving services to learn and develop safe and healthy boundaries with others

Damages the therapeutic relationship between staff and the person receiving services



Justice Center for the
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Protect People in Care and Others

What You Can Do

- **Does your agency have a mission statement that demonstrates the agency's commitment to a safe and therapeutic environment?** A strong mission statement can foster an agency culture dedicated to developing and maintaining healthy boundaries between staff and people receiving services. All staff, people receiving services and advocates should be aware of and educated on this mission statement.
- **Understand and follow guidance regarding professional boundaries.** It is your responsibility to be aware of agency policy on professional boundaries, to follow it and ask questions when policies seem unclear or ineffective. Some professions may also have ethical standards regarding professional boundaries.
- **Attend trainings on maintaining professional boundaries.** Training helps you understand and navigate the complexities of maintaining professional boundaries when providing services to people receiving services.
- **Maintain self-awareness.** Remain aware of warning signs that indicate potential boundary issues. If you feel boundaries have been compromised, or you witness a boundary being crossed, know where and when to report the situation.

Report Abuse or Neglect to the Justice Center's 24/7 Statewide Toll-Free Hotline. Call: 1-855-373-2122/ TTY: 1-855-373-2123

Justice Center Information and Referral

Toll-Free: **1-800-624-4143**

TTY: Dial 7-1-1 for the NYS relay and give the operator **1-800-624-4143**

Individual Family Support Unit:

Email: supportcoordinator@justicecenter.ny.gov



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