

Work Ethics Scenarios in Counseling and Mental Health

A high school counselor changes the grades of a student to improve the student's GPA. The student is awarded the largest scholarship in the district.

Your counselor has recently gone through a difficult divorce. You confide in her that you are having marital problems. She advises you to get a divorce because men are awful human beings who will only take advantage of you.

You have been undergoing counseling for several months, and you feel you have a good rapport with your counselor. You mention you have a social media account and are concerned because you feel you are dependent on social media. Your counselor asks you for your account information, and he begins to send you inappropriate, romantic-leaning messages.

You are a counselor, and your sister has recently gone through a traumatic experience. Her childhood friend suddenly passed away. You suggest that she attend several counseling sessions with you to help her deal with her loss.

You are a counselor, and during a session with your client, you mention it is your birthday. Later that day, you receive a fruit basket from your client as a birthday gift. Should you accept it?

You are a married counselor and are booked with clients for the next three weeks. When you get home one evening, your spouse decides to surprise you with a ten-day European cruise as an anniversary gift. You leave for your cruise the next day and call your secretary from the ship to cancel your appointments for the next ten days.

A client who has claustrophobia issues has been seeing a counselor twice a month for six months. The client has made significant progress and can now ride in an elevator, enclosed carnival rides and small taxi cabs. The counselor recommends six more months of counseling because his practice has been slow and he needs the money.

You have recently opened your own counseling center. You will employ six counselors and have asked that they participate in an off-the-books agreement to offer commissions to the counselors who generate the highest number of new clients.

Your client is a scientist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). At the last session, he confided in you that during a weaponization experiment, he was accidentally exposed to a highly contagious and life-threatening bacteria. He plans to follow his own course of treatment in secrecy.

A counselor recently decided to take several files home in his briefcase for review later. He stops at a busy restaurant for a take-out order. He places his brief case on the floor to pay for the order and hurriedly leaves the restaurant. At home that evening, he decides to review the files but remembers he forgot to pick up his briefcase at the restaurant. He frantically calls the restaurant, but no one has turned in the briefcase.
