


Boundary Crossings and Boundary Violations-What is the Difference?

- ▶ **Boundary crossings and boundary violations** -refers to any deviation from traditional, strict, "only in the office" type of therapy.
- ▶ **Boundary violations** occur when therapists cross the line of decency and violate or exploit their clients. **MOST IMPORTANT!**
- ▶ **Boundary crossing** often involved clinically effective interventions, such as self-disclosure, home visit, non-sexual touch, gifts or bartering.
- ▶ **Dual relationships** in psychotherapy refers to any situation where multiple roles exist between a therapist and a client. Examples of dual relationships are when the client is also a student, friend, family member, employee or business associate of the therapist. We will focuses only on non-sexual dual relationships.
- ▶ www.zurinstitute.com



ACA-2014

▶ **ACA (2014) A.6.b. Extending Counseling Boundaries**

- ▶ Counselors consider the risks and benefits of extending current counseling relationships beyond conventional parameters. Examples include attending a client's formal ceremony (e.g., a wedding/commitment ceremony or graduation), purchasing a service or product provided by a client (excepting unrestricted bartering), and visiting a client's ill family member in the hospital. In extending these boundaries, counselors take appropriate professional precautions such as informed consent, consultation, supervision, and documentation to ensure that judgment is not impaired and no harm occurs.

NASW-2017

- ▶ Social workers should not engage in dual or multiple relationships with clients or former clients in which there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client. In instances when dual or multiple relationships are unavoidable, social workers should take steps to protect clients and are responsible for setting clear, appropriate, and culturally sensitive boundaries. (Dual or multiple relationships occur when social workers relate to clients in more than one relationship, whether professional, social, or business. Dual or multiple relationships can occur simultaneously or consecutively)