

# Boundary Issues and Multiple Relationships in the Real World: A Rational Approach

Boundaries and multiple relationships are common occurrences for mental health clinicians. Yet, they may at times be challenging, confusing, and even overwhelming for those who may not know how to effectively manage boundaries and how to determine which multiple relationships are acceptable or appropriate. Taking a rigid and avoidant approach typically can be just as harmful as an overly loose approach. Participants in this webinar will learn a rational, practical, and reality-based approach for addressing and managing boundaries and multiple relationships in clinical practice. The role of a decision-making process and consideration of multiple relevant issues will be addressed and their use in clinical practice will be demonstrated. Clinical examples will be presented and discussed to illustrate the points being made. Participants will learn specific skills and strategies to integrate into their clinical practices on a daily basis.

## Target Audience

Psychologists  
Therapists

Social Workers  
Psychiatrists

Counselors  
Nurses

Course level: Intermediate

## Learning Objectives

At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the boundaries common to psychotherapy and counseling relationships.
2. Differentiate between boundary crossing and boundary violations.
3. Explain a decision-making process for deciding when to enter multiple relationships.
4. List the potential harm that may come from sexual intimacies with clients.
5. Describe professional standards relevant to boundaries and multiple relationships.

## Seminar Schedule

Typically begins at 11:00 AM and ends at 2:15 PM Eastern time. There is one 15 minute break. However, check the webinar schedule.

## Outline

Begin 11 AM ET  
What are boundaries?  
Boundary crossing vs. violations  
Examples  
Ethical decision making around boundaries  
Diversity factors  
Multiple relationships  
Break 12:30-12:45 PM ET  
Slippery slope  
The ethical virtue  
Advertising  
Education and training  
Self-disclosure  
Hugging and touch  
Recommendations  
Sexual Relations  
Psychodynamic psychotherapy  
Case law  
End 2:15 PM ET

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## Continuing Education Credit

To earn CE's, you must attend the entire webinar. No partial credit is available. For both the webinar and the home study version, you will have to pass a post-test with 80% correct and complete a seminar evaluation to earn the certificate. You can take the test up to three times. Participants will earn 3 CE's for attending once they have completed these requirements.

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## The Presenter

Jeffrey E. Barnett, Psy.D., ABPP is a licensed psychologist and is board certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology in Clinical Psychology and in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology. Additionally, he is a Distinguished Practitioner in Psychology of the National Academies of Practice. He also is a Professor of Psychology at Loyola University Maryland. He is a nationally recognized expert in professional ethics issues for mental health professionals and has served as chair of the ethics committees of the Maryland Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Board of Professional Psychology. He also has served as the Vice Chair of the Maryland Psychology Licensing Board. Dr. Barnett has numerous publications to include 13 books and over 250 articles and book chapters and over 300 professional presentations that focus on ethics, legal, and professional practice issues for mental health professionals. Through his many publications and presentations Dr. Barnett has made major contributions in ethics and ethics education, ethical decision-making, online education, mentoring, boundaries and multiple relationships, self-care and the promotion of psychological wellness, clinical supervision, tele-mental health, integrating religion and spirituality into clinical practice, business of practice, and integrating Complementary and Alternative Medicine into clinical practice. Among his many awards he is a recipient of the American Psychological Association's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Ethics Education and its award for Distinguished Contributions to the Independent Practice of Psychology.

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This seminar has been reviewed and approved by Keith Hannan, Ph.D., Phil Rich, LICSW, Daphne Fatter, Ph.D., and Loreen Yearick, MSN, RN. This approval expires on March 1, 2025.

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