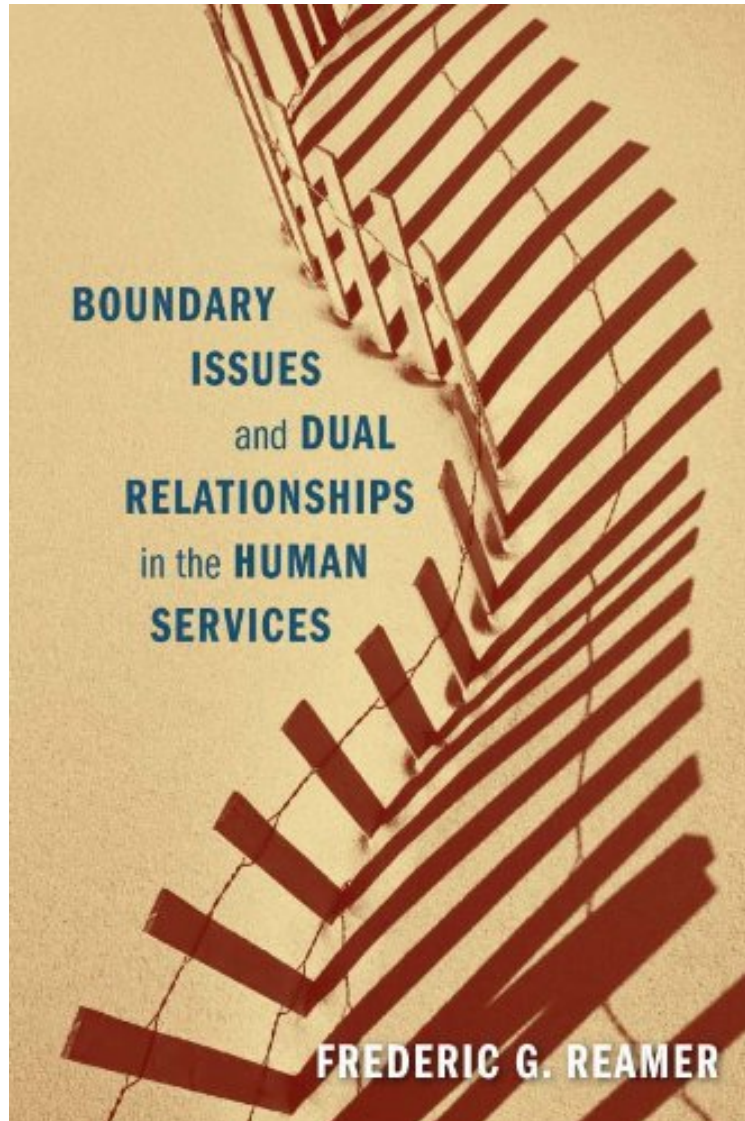


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## Boundary Issues and Dual Relationships in the Human Services

*Frederic Reamer*

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**Frederic Reamer : Boundary Issues and Dual Relationships in the Human Services** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boundary Issues and Dual Relationships in the Human Services:

Should a therapist disclose personal information to a client, accept a client's gift, or provide a former client with a job?

Is it appropriate to exchange email or text messages with clients or correspond with them on social networking websites? Some acts, such as initiating a sexual relationship with a client, are clearly prohibited, yet what about more subtle interactions, such as hugging or accepting invitations to a social event? Is maintaining a friendship with a former client or client's relative a conflict of interest that ultimately subverts the client-practitioner relationship? Frederic G. Reamer, a certified authority on professional ethics, offers a frank analysis of a range of boundary issues and their complex formulations. He confronts the ethics of intimate and sexual relationships with clients and former clients, the healthy parameters of practitioners' self-disclosure, electronic relationships with clients, the giving and receiving of gifts and favors, the bartering of services, and the unavoidable and unanticipated circumstances of social encounters and geographical proximity. With case studies addressing challenges in the mental health field, school contexts, child welfare, addiction programs, home-healthcare, elder services, and prison, rural, and military settings, Reamer offers effective, practical risk-management models that prevent problems and help balance dual relationships.

Once again Frederic G. Reamer provides social work and human service professionals with an informative guide to ethical practice and the prevention of boundary violations. He encourages professional helpers to be aware of their ethical responsibilities and to engage in a systematic, deliberate, and comprehensive series of decision making steps to manage risk and the appearance of impropriety. Seventy-eight cases are presented to assist in developing sensitivity to boundary issues in dual relationships involving sexual matters, emotional dependency, personal benefit, altruism, and unavoidable and unanticipated situations. Guidelines and strategies for dealing with evolving technology, including social networks and responsibilities in addressing the problem of an impaired colleague, are presented. A must read. (Sheldon R. Gelman, Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University) Poorly handled boundary problems are the most common basis for lawsuits and licensing board complaints involving mental health professionals. Reamer has compiled an engaging collection of diverse case materials and integrated these with thoughtful discussion and excerpts from key professional standards. The result is an exceptionally helpful guide for students and experienced practitioners alike, and a highly engaging read. (Gerald Koocher, Simmons College) Reamer thoroughly discusses an array of boundary-issue cases, using credible examples throughout to illustrate the challenges posed in practice and the concepts for ethically solving those challenges. The inclusion of relevant excerpts from the codes of ethics in a variety of helping professions facilitates conversation and consultation about dilemmas in interdisciplinary settings. (Kim Strom-Gottfried, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) About the Author Frederic G. Reamer is professor at the School of Social Work, Rhode Island College. His many books include *Teens in Crisis: How the Industry Serving Struggling Teens Helps and Hurts Our Kids*; *Social Work Values and Ethics*; *Criminal Lessons: Case Studies and Commentary on Crime and Justice*; and *Social Work Malpractice and Liability: Strategies for Prevention*.