



StreetWorks Toolkit

Resources: *Boundaries*

In Classroom 101, we discussed setting professional boundaries. Use this activity to support a discussion with your supervisor about your agency's rules--both on paper and in practice.

How to use this activity:

This activity is intended to be used to structure a discussion with your supervisor about boundaries. Plan to spend about an hour with your supervisor in this activity. If possible, read through the activity beforehand.

During the StreetWorks Toolkit training, trainees are given a list of boundaries that are commonly used in different agencies. Most of these boundaries are framed around the phrase "do not," indicating things a worker is not supposed to do. In practice, these boundaries may not be treated strictly as "rules," and may be either bent, broken, or completely disregarded.

Using the following list as a starting point for conversation, discuss where you (as a supervisor) and your agency may see either exceptions to these rules, situations in which different approaches may be warranted, and any additional guidance around boundaries you or your agency may have.

To the extent you feel comfortable, we invite you to share feedback or questions on these activities so that we can better fit these tools to your role and your community.

Feel free to reach out to streetworkstraining@lssmn.org or james.scott@lssmn.org for questions or to reflect on this activity, and we encourage you to share any or all of your results with StreetWorks.

- Do not accept or give gifts or favors of more than nominal value
- Do not offer personal information about yourself
- Do not give out your personal cell phone or home phone number
- Do not bring a client home
- Do not physically touch a client. If absolutely needed, always ask first
- Do not engage in a sexual relationship with a client
- Do not lend or borrow money, vehicles, or other items to or from the individuals we support
- Do not engage in drug use with a client
- Model appropriate language and behavior
- Do not impose your personal beliefs and values upon clients, including your religious or spiritual beliefs
- Do not "vent" to clients about work issues colleagues, or the agency
- Do not break the rules

Now what?

- The information you gather in this activity will form the basis of your discussion in Classroom 201, so be prepared to have your notes available during that phase of the training.
- Can you use some of the listed "do nots" to re-frame positive boundaries that describe things staff at your agency *should* do?
- Consider working with your supervisor to document some positive boundaries for staff. Is there an upcoming opportunity to have a conversation with a larger group of staff about professional boundaries?