



FROM DIFFICULT to DANGEROUS: Acting Out, Aggression, or Volatility versus Dangerous or Violence Potential in Children, Teens, and Others Assessing Violent and Non-Violent Behaviors

Trainer: Ronald Mah, M.A., Ph.D., L.M.F.T.

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“How dangerous is my client?” Therapists are often presented with difficult clients to treat. Among the presenting issues are aggressive, impulsive, and violent behaviors. Or, there may also be aggressive, obsessive, and violent thoughts or writings. Sometimes, there are both present. How dangerous is the client? Is there a likelihood of physical assault on another person?

There are often complex issues and circumstances that make a child or teen (and adult) "act out" or become moody. Effective treatment comes from appropriate assessments of client personality, issues, and circumstances that lead to theoretical clarity that subsequently imply treatment approaches and interventions.

Fifteen or more specific criteria will be introduced to help clinicians differentiate danger potential and treatment and intervention processes. This information gives guidance for both treatment and preventative work for children and teens. While the seminar will focus on children, this information is applicable for assessing for potential for domestic violence, child abuse, physical assault, and emotional, psychological, economic, financial, and social attacks by adults.

In the extended version of the training, several diagnostic tools (in the form of short written guides or worksheets) both assessment and treatment for child and teen challenging behaviors will be presented. The presenter has developed these tools over years of working with children, teens, parents, and teachers and other school personnel.

Workshop Goals and Objectives:

- To improve therapists' assessment of potential client danger to harm others.
- For therapists to identify client personality issues, including personality disorders that increase potential aggression and/or violence.
- For therapists to better differentiate among
 - individuals with challenging behaviors, that however, are relatively simple and benign to deal with (low potential for aggression and/or violence),
 - individuals with more problematic episodic and/or more intense behaviors (moderate potential for aggression and/or violence),
 - and individuals with high potential for aggression and/or violence.
- For therapists to effectively vary treatment approaches and interventions using these assessments and diagnoses.
- For therapists to improve diagnosis of complex issues and circumstances that make a child or teen (and adult) "act out" or become moody.
- To introduce therapists to various theories for understanding and tools for dealing with problematic child and teen behaviors.

INSTRUCTOR: Ronald Mah, M.A., Ph.D., L.M.F.T., CEU provider #PCE3298 The workshop presenter has a successful private practice (including many adolescents and young children, families and couples). He is also a credentialed elementary and secondary teacher. He has taught, directed, and owned child development centers. He is on the Board of Directors of both the California Association of Marriage & Family Therapists (CAMFT) and the California Kindergarten Association (CKA). He has extensive clinical experience with children and teenagers, including clinically supervising therapists in an inner city high school teen clinic. He has trained about youth to various human services and counseling agencies over the years. He also has two very positive and powerful teenage/ young adult children who have successfully passed through adolescence with a minimum of unnecessary drama! Ronald has teacher and parent education presentations available on dvds at www.FixedEarthFilms.com; he is also the author of "Difficult Behavior in Early Childhood, Positive Discipline for Pre-K-3 Classrooms and Beyond," Corwin Press, 2006, "The One-Minute Temper Tantrum Solution, Strategies for Responding to Children's Challenging Behaviors," Corwin Press, 2008, and "Getting Beyond Bullying and Exclusion, PreK-5, Empowering Children in Inclusive Classrooms," Corwin Press, 2009.

Course meets the qualifications continuing education for MFT's and LCSW's as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.