



Seductions and Arrogance

Client Presentations and Therapist Vulnerabilities

That Lead to Legal and Ethical Violations

A different Legal and Ethical Seminar to fulfill the CEU requirement.

(This Seminar fulfills the BSE Legal & Ethical CEU requirement for license renewal for MFT's & LCSW's.)

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

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- A Legal & Ethical Seminar Addressing Client Types and Issues and Clinician Personality and Counter-transference Leading to Boundary Violations.
- Who Messes You Up (including who is mostly likely to elicit an ethical or legal breach and who is mostly likely to make a complaint).
- How You Screw Up Anyway (despite knowing better)!

Education, Knowledge, and Training in graduate programs and Law & Ethics seminars every license cycle inform the therapist of the “what” of legal and ethical boundaries and violations, but do not necessarily address the client and therapist “whys” of how a therapist comes to make errors anyway.

- ❖ There are clients that are immediately perceived as potentially problematic, while others surprise and even ambush a therapist.
- ❖ Certain clinical situations are relatively straightforward while others are littered with not only therapeutic but also legal and ethical land mines.
- ❖ Sometimes knowing or getting clarification regarding legal and ethical requirements and guidelines, instead of giving a therapist confidence, it makes him/her more uncomfortable or anxious. That is probably an indication of a vulnerability that may play out subsequently in a legal or ethical quandary, breach, or mistake.

This seminar will use case vignettes derived from published cases of BSE and Psychology Board disciplinary actions, CAMFT Therapist journal articles, and from experiences of the presenter (including his participation on the Ethics Board of the California Association of Marriage & Family Therapists- CAMFT) to examine Legal and Ethical issues and boundaries, the client behaviors, issues, seductions, and circumstances; the presenting issues and configurations in therapy; and the personal issues and vulnerabilities of therapists that combine to increase the probability of legal and ethical violations in therapy. In the small group format of the seminar, participants will be encouraged to interact and offer their own experiences, both for consultation and for enhancing the breadth and depth of the seminar's goal to help therapists be more clear and secure dealing with legal and ethical issues as they practice.

Topics to be included:

- Legal and Ethical issues for psychotherapists,
- Client presentations (personality disorders, abuse survivors, sexualizing therapy, neediness, etc.),
- Legally and ethically challenging issues (letters, custodial disputes, mandated counseling, etc.), therapy configurations (family, couples, parents and children or teens, etc.),
- Professional practices (insurance, billing, debts), and
- Therapist vulnerabilities (ignorance, arrogance, being the “gallant knight” or rescuer, being “special,” relational self-medication, etc.)

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