



Doing the Right Thing





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**Making Ethical Decisions and
Preventing the Abuse, Neglect &
Exploitation of
People with Disabilities**



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**What are we
trying to
prevent?**



**Abuse – verbal/psychological,
physical and sexual**

**Neglect - lack of supervision,
failure to provide needed care**

**Exploitation – of money,
resources or person**



Why do people commit acts of abuse, neglect and exploitation?

**Premeditation
vs.
Bad Decisions**



Areas of where making ethical decisions matter:

- 1. Creating a Culture of Respect**
- 2. Use of Power**
- 3. Boundaries**
- 4. Fatigue, Frustration and Fear**
- 5. Objectivity**



A Brief Discussion of Ethics





**What does it mean
to do the right thing?**



**What does it mean
to be good?**



**Should I do what I know
is right or do what
everyone else is doing?**



**Will I intervene if I am a
bystander to abuse,
neglect or exploitation?**



What guides you?

**What does your conscience
tell you to do?**



*“Compassion is
the basis
of morality.”*

Arthur Schopenhauer

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the GOLDEN
rule

Do unto others
as you would
have them
do unto you



**What is your moral compass?
Do you follow it?**





Ethics (or Moral Philosophy) is concerned with questions of how people ought to act and the search for a definition of right conduct and the good life.



Some Ethical Philosophies:

- Being Virtuous***
- Following the Rules***
- Choosing the Greater Good***



Creating a Culture of Respect





What does it mean
to you?



**Do you and your
colleagues treat
each other with
respect?**



**Are you a good role
model for the people
entrusted to your
care and supervision?**



**Are you treating
everyone the way you
would like to be
treated?**



Power





**Caregiving role: One person
has power over and
responsibility to the other
(The Fiduciary Responsibility)**



It's important not to let the balance of power slide heavily onto the caregiver's side of the relationship.



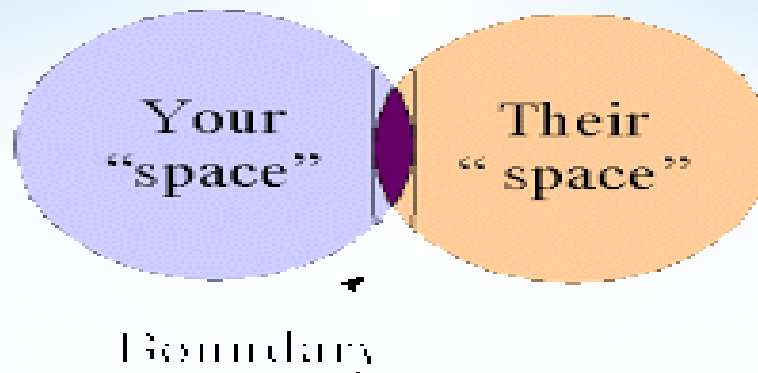
The use of power for good vs. the abuse of power



You have been
entrusted with the
power to do good!



Boundaries





**It's a professional
relationship**



**What are good
vs. bad
boundaries?**



Potential problem areas when it comes to boundaries:

1. Information
2. Money
3. Touching
4. Relationships



**Do you have good boundaries
with your co-workers?**

Can you be objective?



Fatigue Frustration & Fear





Fatigue can lead to:

- Apathy***
- Distraction***
- Sleeping on job***
- Short tempers***



*Frustration and Fear can
lead to:*

- Over-reactions*
- Avoidance*
- Violence*



Pay attention to your own feelings of fatigue, frustration and fear and signs of these feelings in others and ask for support!



Objectivity





Lack of Objectivity can lead to:

- Making false assumptions***
- Personal biases affecting decisions***
- Denial***
- Ignoring facts***



Lack of Objectivity can lead to:

- Not reporting abuse, neglect and exploitation when you know about it.***
- Covering things up.***



Fact vs. Fiction:

What are the facts?

Can you be objective when it comes to your co-workers?



**Misuse of power,
poor boundaries,
fatigue, frustration, fear
and lack of objectivity
can lead to victimization.**



**Victimization
cause trauma
and can be
lifelong.**



**So how can we prevent
abuse, neglect &
exploitation?**





**Be respectful, kind
and patient**





Be a good
role model



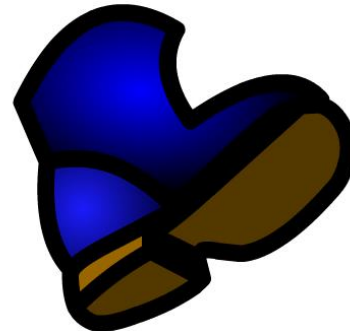


Avoid
“Me first”
behavior





Avoid Abuse of Power





Avoid Boundary Crossings





Monitor Fatigue, Fear & Frustration





Observe & Report Objectively





**Intervene to protect
the person entrusted
to your care**





Questions?
Comments?



Suggested Reading:

**1. “Why Can’t We Be Good”
by Jacob Needleman**

**2. “From Inquiry to Insight”
(Guided Discussions for Preventing Abuse and
Neglect of Persons with Cognitive Disabilities)
by Arthur Dykstra and Amy Tabor**

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