

Third Edition

Boundary Issues in Counseling

Multiple Roles and Responsibilities

Barbara Herlihy
Gerald Corey



AMERICAN COUNSELING
ASSOCIATION

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To our colleagues who struggle with the issues in this book.

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Preface

Dual or multiple relationships may be among the most controversial of all issues in the counseling profession. They have been the subject of extensive debate that has produced many questions and has moved us toward a stance on multiple relationships that is more flexible and culturally sensitive. We expect that this book will be useful to others who share our interest in boundaries and dual or multiple relationships and who struggle, as we do, to find a clear personal stance on the issues involved.

This book is a resource that reflects the current thinking of our profession on boundary issues, but we also wanted it to represent a diversity of opinion and perspectives. To that end, we have invited 40 guest contributors (30 of whom are new to this edition) to share their thoughts.

New and updated contributions focus on multicultural and social justice perspectives on cultural boundaries and offer insights into counseling Latino, African American, and Muslim clients. Our guest contributors address boundary considerations in a number of new and emerging specialty areas of practice, including disaster mental health work, social media friendships and school counselors, working with clients with end-of-life concerns, managing multiple relationships in military settings, in-home service delivery, and a postmodern perspective on ethical decision making. Other new topics include the client's perspective on the impact of sexual boundary violations; managing sexual attractions; multiple roles that doctoral students are challenged to play; addressing supervisee incompetence; challenges in the supervision of addictions counselors; and school counselor boundaries with teachers, administrators, and parents. This third edition provides a

look at current thinking and discussions on professional boundaries and multiple relationships in our changing world. In addition to the contributed pieces, all the chapters have been revised, most chapters contain expanded discussions on the topics, new trends have been identified, and current literature is cited.

This third edition highlights the revised ethics code of the American Counseling Association (2014) as well as specific standards drawn from the ethics codes of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (2012), American Psychiatric Association (2013b), American Psychological Association (2010), American School Counselor Association (2010), Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (1993), Association for Specialists in Group Work (2008, 2012), Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (2007), Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (2010), International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors (2011; Hendricks, Bradley, Southern, Oliver, & Birdsall, 2011), and National Association of Social Workers (2008).

We have organized the book to begin with a general introduction and overview of dual or multiple relationships and a range of boundary issues in counseling practice. We define the issues and areas of concern (Chapter 1), then focus on sexual dual relationships (Chapter 2) and present the client's perspective (Chapter 3). Chapter 4 addresses multicultural and social justice perspectives on boundaries, which is a foundation for many of the chapters that follow. Chapter 5 examines boundary issues in counselor education and is followed by chapters on supervision and consultation (Chapter 6), the education and training of group counselors (Chapter 7), group counseling and couples and family counseling (Chapter 8), and school counseling (Chapter 9). Chapter 10 focuses on the specialty areas of disaster mental health, private practice, addictions counseling, and rehabilitation counseling. In Chapter 11 we focus on unique boundary issues that arise for practitioners in rural practice, counselors in the military, counseling clients with end-of-life concerns, providing in-home service, and counselors working in forensic settings. Chapter 12 reviews 11 key themes in this book, asks questions to encourage integration and reflection, and offers a decision-making model.

We make no claim to having discovered the answers to many complex and difficult questions. Rather, it is our aim to raise issues, present a range of viewpoints, and discuss our own position. Our hope is that you will use this material as a springboard for further reflection and discussion. We invite you to think about the issues that are raised, apply them to your own work, and discuss them with colleagues.

This book focuses on boundary issues with a wide variety of client populations. Although the topic is narrow in focus, dual and multiple relationships are pervasive in the helping professions. This book is a valuable supplement for courses in ethics and professional issues and for practicum, fieldwork, and internship seminars. We hope counselor educators,

clinical supervisors, and students benefit from the personal perspectives provided that identify potential problems and suggest solutions when crossing boundaries in dual or multiple relationships. Our aim is to aid all practitioners who struggle with boundary issues in their work today.

About the Authors



Barbara Herlihy, PhD, LPC, LPC-S, is University Research Professor in the Counselor Education graduate program at the University of New Orleans. She has served on the American Counseling Association (ACA) Ethics Committee as chair (1987–1989) and as a member (1986–1987, 1993–1994) and as a member of the task forces to revise the 1995 and 2005 ACA codes of ethics.

Dr. Herlihy is the coauthor of several books on ethical issues in counseling: *Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in Counseling* (with Ted Remley, 2014); *Boundary Issues in Counseling* (1997, 2006), the *ACA Ethical Standards Casebook* (1996, 2006), and *Dual Relationships in Counseling* (1992)—all with Gerald Corey; and the *ACA Ethical Standards Casebook* (with Larry Golden, 1990). She is also the author or coauthor of more than 50 journal articles and 25 book chapters on ethics, multicultural counseling, feminist therapy, and other topics. She is the recipient of the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Courtland Lee Social Justice Award and the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Distinguished Mentor Award. She is a frequent presenter of seminars and workshops on ethics across the United States and internationally, most recently in Malta, Venezuela, and Mexico.

Gerald Corey, EdD, ABPP, NCC, is a professor emeritus of human services and counseling at California State University at Fullerton. He is a Diplomate in Counseling Psychology, American Board of Professional Psychology; a licensed counseling psychologist; and a Fellow of the American Counseling Association (ACA), the Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW), and the American Psychological

Association (APA), in both Division 17 and Division 49. He is the recipient (with Marianne Schneider Corey) of both the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Mental Health Counselors Association in 2011 and the ASGW's Eminent Career Award in 2001.

Dr. Corey has authored or coauthored 15 textbooks in counseling that are currently in print, has made five educational DVD programs on various aspects of counseling, and has written numerous articles and book chapters. Some of his coauthored books include *Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions* (with Marianne Schneider Corey, Cindy Corey, and Patrick Callanan, 2015), *Becoming a Helper* (with Marianne Schneider Corey, 2011), *I Never Knew I Had a Choice* (with Marianne Schneider Corey, 2014), *Groups: Process and Practice* (with Marianne Schneider Corey and Cindy Corey, 2014), and *Theory and Practice of Counseling and Psychotherapy* (2013). In the past 35 years the Coreys have conducted group counseling training workshops for mental health professionals at many universities in the United States as well as in Canada, Mexico, China, Hong Kong, Korea, Germany, Belgium, Scotland, England, and Ireland.

Guest Contributors



Our guest contributors have enriched this book immensely. They have provided a diversity of perspectives, including those of student, counselor educator and supervisor, practitioner, and specialist. They have shared their thoughts and opinions and have raised issues that are well worth considering. These contributors (and the chapters in which their contributions appear) are as follows:

Fred Bemak, EdD, is a professor and academic program coordinator of the Counseling and Development Program and director of the Diversity Research and Action Center at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. He is also the founder and director of Counselors Without Borders (Chapter 4).

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