



## Crossing Boundaries & Inappropriate Disclosure



By: Katherine Cauty, Jaclyn Cornejo, Nadine Greer, Amanda Velazquez  
**Case Vignette**

-Patient claims that during the time period of treatment, from November 2005 through August 2008, the therapist would, "often hold her hand in session, hugged her, told her that she was special compared to other patients, and that he felt intensely about her in and out of sessions."

-Therapist and patient continued a social relationship after termination of therapy for three years, beginning October 2008.

-Respondent was grossly negligent in that he stepped out of his professional role and confused patient about the nature of their relationship, specifically for seeing patient on a social basis outside of the office after the therapeutic relationship was terminated, especially when patient had issues with her previous therapist regarding "closure" issues."

### Story Continued...

#### Penalties

Concerning Psychologist Paul A. Gabrinetti of Woodland Hills, CA  
The Therapist Volume 26, Issue 2:  
March/April 2014 pg. 110

#### Disposition:

- License revoked
- Placed on probation for five years on the following conditions:
  - Undergo psychological evaluation
  - Have a practice monitoring monitor
  - Participate in psychotherapy
  - Take and pass the California Psychological Law and Ethics Examination
  - Complete not less than 20 hours of coursework each year of probation
  - Complete a course in law and ethics
  - Pay the board \$7,000 for investigation and enforcement costs
  - Refrain from employing/supervising assistants, interns, and trainees

"Marriage and family therapists are aware of their influence on clients and should be held to a high standard of care and responsibility to all clients."

#### Ethical Codes

##### Story Continued...

**AMFT**  
Standard 1.10.01 - 1.10.02  
Standard 1.10.03 - 1.10.04  
Standard 1.10.05 - 1.10.06  
Standard 1.10.07 - 1.10.08  
Standard 1.10.09 - 1.10.10  
Standard 1.10.11 - 1.10.12  
Standard 1.10.13 - 1.10.14  
Standard 1.10.15 - 1.10.16  
Standard 1.10.17 - 1.10.18  
Standard 1.10.19 - 1.10.20  
Standard 1.10.21 - 1.10.22  
Standard 1.10.23 - 1.10.24  
Standard 1.10.25 - 1.10.26  
Standard 1.10.27 - 1.10.28  
Standard 1.10.29 - 1.10.30  
Standard 1.10.31 - 1.10.32  
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Standard 1.10.35 - 1.10.36  
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Standard 1.10.39 - 1.10.40  
Standard 1.10.41 - 1.10.42  
Standard 1.10.43 - 1.10.44  
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Standard 1.10.47 - 1.10.48  
Standard 1.10.49 - 1.10.50  
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Standard 1.10.61 - 1.10.62  
Standard 1.10.63 - 1.10.64  
Standard 1.10.65 - 1.10.66  
Standard 1.10.67 - 1.10.68  
Standard 1.10.69 - 1.10.70  
Standard 1.10.71 - 1.10.72  
Standard 1.10.73 - 1.10.74  
Standard 1.10.75 - 1.10.76  
Standard 1.10.77 - 1.10.78  
Standard 1.10.79 - 1.10.80  
Standard 1.10.81 - 1.10.82  
Standard 1.10.83 - 1.10.84  
Standard 1.10.85 - 1.10.86  
Standard 1.10.87 - 1.10.88  
Standard 1.10.89 - 1.10.90  
Standard 1.10.91 - 1.10.92  
Standard 1.10.93 - 1.10.94  
Standard 1.10.95 - 1.10.96  
Standard 1.10.97 - 1.10.98  
Standard 1.10.99 - 1.10.100

**CMPT**  
Standard 1.1 - 1.10  
Standard 1.11 - 1.12  
Standard 1.13 - 1.14  
Standard 1.15 - 1.16  
Standard 1.17 - 1.18  
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Standard 1.95 - 1.96  
Standard 1.97 - 1.98  
Standard 1.99 - 1.100

#### Example

##### "Prime"



#### Example

##### "Good Will Hunting" :00



#### Example

##### "Because I Said So"



#### Good Example

##### "Step Brothers"



#### References

- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. Code of Ethics. Retrieved May 10, 2014, from [http://aamft.org/ethics/Code\\_of\\_Ethics.aspx](http://aamft.org/ethics/Code_of_Ethics.aspx)
- Gross, F. C. (2014). Complete applications of law and ethics for California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (13th ed.). Palm Coast, FL: F.C. Gross.
- Tran-Lien, A. (2014, March/April). Disciplinary Actions: The Therapist, 26 (5), 110.

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Disposition-

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# Disclosure

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Marriage and family therapists are aware of their influential positions with respect to patients, and they avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of such persons.



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**1:10**

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**Example**

**"Because I Said So"**

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# Ethical Codes

## Story Continued...

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### **AAMFT**

AAMFT Code of Ethics 1.3 Multiple Relationships

AAMFT Code of Ethics 1.4 Sexual Intimacy with Current Clients and Others

AAMFT Code of Ethics 1.5 Sexual Intimacy with Former Clients and Others

AAMFT Code of Ethics 1.7 No Furthering of Own Interests

AAMFT Code of Ethics 3.4 Conflicts of Interest

AAMFT Code of Ethics 3.10 Gifts

### **CAMFT**

CAMFT Ethical Standard 1.2- Dual Relationship

CAMFT Ethical Standard 1.2.1- Unethical Dual Relationships:

CAMFT Ethical Standard 1.2.2- Sexual Contact

CAMFT Ethical Standard 1.5- Therapist Disclosure

CAMFT Ethical Standard 1.6- Exploitation

CAMFT Ethical Standard 3.8- Harassment or Exploitation

### **BBS**

4982.