The Ethics of Advocacy

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Ethics

Integrity, Dignity & Compassion for Victim/Survivors,
Upholding the Principles of Justice
Definition

eth·ics
ˈeTHiks/
noun
plural noun: ethics; noun: ethics
1. moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity.
"medical ethics also enter into the question"
synonyms: moral code, morals, morality, values, rights and wrongs, principles, ideals, standards (of behavior), value system, virtues, dictates of conscience "your so-called newspaper is clearly not burdened by a sense of ethics"
the moral correctness of specified conduct.
"many scientists question the ethics of cruel experiments"
2. the branch of knowledge that deals with moral principles.
NOVA CODE of
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
for
VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS
Scenario
Day to Day

Clients, Colleagues, Allied Professionals
Defining Boundaries
In general...

Personal boundaries are the physical, emotional and mental limits we establish to protect ourselves from being manipulated, used, or violated by others. They allow us to separate who we are, and what we think and feel, from the thoughts and feelings of others.
For advocacy…

Professional boundaries are the rules we set for appropriate relationships within a victim/advocate relationship.
"Boundaries need to be communicated first verbally and then with actions."

- Dr. Henry Cloud
Setting the Stage: Initial Contact

• Phone vs. In-Person
• No time constraints (as possible)
• Explaining role- succinctly & clearly
• Answer all questions you can
• Be clear about why you can’t answer questions
• Contact information
• Create expectations for contact
Tools

- Community Referrals
  - Therapy
  - Food
  - Housing
  - Other Resources

- Not all to everyone
- Maintaining continuity with familiar faces
- “Breathing room”
Challenges to Boundaries

- Unrealistic Expectations
- Personal Information
- Social Media
- Reminding of role
- Availability
Scenario
Being the “One”
Advocates are one member of a team.

Remember:
- Build a team you trust
- Know each other’s role
- Be accountable and hold others accountable
- Assume best intentions
Thank you

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