



# Learn More, Read Less

*Quick Professional Learning for School Counselors On-the-Go*

<b>Title</b> <i>(linked)</i>	<a href="#"><u>Professional Distance, Dual Relationships &amp; Boundaries</u></a>
<b>Author/Presenter</b>	Carolyn Stone (Professor at University of North Florida and Past President of ASCA)
<b>Summary</b>	A review of implications and issues resulting from court cases that involved boundary crossings, dual relationships and/or professional distance
<b>Topic / Platform</b>	Ethics / Webinar

Key Takeaways	Implications for Practice	Level Considerations
<p>Note: This was such an interesting webinar, definitely worth the time to watch/listen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Definition:</b> <u>Standard of Care</u> means that if you are taken to court what is typical of a school counselor.</li> <li>● <b>Definition:</b> <u>In loco parentis</u> - we act in the place of parents while the child is at school</li> <li>● Ethical codes offer guidance since there is often no clear right and wrong in school counseling</li> <li>● The nature of our job is difficult in that we function in an academic setting versus a private counseling setting and we are limited in time and scope</li> <li>● Parents own the privacy rights of students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Boundary crossing: We do sometimes step outside of our boundary roles to support kids. When that happens, we should pause to consider all possible negative implications</li> <li>● If you think you may be crossing a boundary line, consider: Am I meeting my own needs or the needs of the child?</li> <li>● Never put anything in electronic form that you would not want a million people to see including kids, supervisors, and/or parents</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p>The younger the child the greater the need to break confidentiality (Example: 7 year old smoking a cigarette the SC would likely break confidentiality and call home versus a 17 year old smoking a cigarette.)</p> <p><b>Interesting Case:</b> Can you lose your job for your behavior prior to being a SC? <a href="#"><u>Yes, because you are a role model in school.</u></a> A SC lost her job because a student gave the principal racy modeling photos of the counselor from prior to when she was a SC. A chancellor's committee ruled that she could be fired because she lost her ability to do her job in a typical way. She now works as a SC under a different name in a different school.</p>

## Fun Fact... Did You Know?

***Note:** PDs-on-the-Go are intended to convey general information only, and not to provide legal/ethical advice or opinions. When facing an ethical dilemma, it is always best practice to consult with a colleague or supervisor and to document your ethical decision-making process.*

Some dual relationships are unavoidable (e.g., a student on your caseload is the child of a school staff member) and should always be handled with care. However, whenever possible, it is best to avoid dual relationships.