

Professional Boundaries "At Risk" Inventory

Note *Do you wonder how close you are to blundering over professional boundaries in ministry and possibly harming someone? This inventory may tell you. Of course, you must answer honestly. Add up your score and compare the total with the key at the end of the inventory. Circle your answer to the right of each question.*

		No	Yes
1.	Have you completed an academic course or workshop on professional ethics and boundaries?	1	0
2.	Do you inappropriately disclose aspects of your life to persons you are providing pastoral care?	0	1
3.	Are you maintaining a vital, healthy and satisfying relationship with your spouse (if married) and significant others outside your parish?	1	0
4.	Do you provide pastoral counseling to parishioners with whom you have other close working relationships in the parish?	0	1
5.	Do you feel sexually attracted to someone associated with your ministry?	0	1
6.	Do you fantasize about kissing or touching someone with whom you have a ministry relationship?	0	1
7.	Do you comment to someone related to your ministry on how attractive he or she is or make remarks about his or her body?	0	1
8.	Are you tempted to ask a member, former member, or someone you are providing pastoral counseling/care for a date?	0	1
9.	Do you commonly take off your jewelry, remove shoes, loosen your tie, or become more informal when providing pastoral care?	0	1
10.	Presently, do you meet a parishioner for coffee or meals, or for socializing outside a formal pastoral care or ministry setting?	0	1
11.	Has a parishioner in general or a person you have been providing pastoral care given you an expensive gift or frequently gives you inexpensive gifts?	0	1
12.	Are you stimulated by a current counselee's or parishioner's description of sexual behavior or thoughts?	0	1
13.	Are you in the midst of a difficult personal or family crisis yourself?	0	1

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| 14. | Do you regularly participate in clergy support or peer review group, and resist being a "Lone Ranger"? | 1 | 0 |
| 15. | Are there meetings with individuals in your ministry that you are keeping from your spouse or other significant persons? | 0 | 1 |
| 16. | Do you find yourself frequently thinking about someone in your ministry and planning ways you can be with them? | 0 | 1 |
| 17. | Do you provide other than short-term counseling to members in your congregation or others? | 0 | 1 |
| 18. | Have you wanted to talk with a colleague about a current situation but feared doing so would show your lack of skill or lead to an ethics case against you? | 0 | 1 |
| 19. | Have you officially discussed with your church board norms, standards, and policies for your pastoral visitation or pastoral counseling regarding doing these alone? | 1 | 0 |
| 20. | Do you talk about privileged or confidential information with other members in your congregation or gossip about people with your colleagues or others? | 0 | 1 |

Enter to the right the combined total of points in the No and Yes columns

- Score: 0 Excellent, you are less likely to be professional compromised.
- 1-2 Review your ministry. Read material on professional boundaries.
- 3-4 Review your ministry for problem areas. Make needed changes.
- 5-7 Consult a respected colleague or mentor; you are engaging in high risk behavior.
- 8+ Probably you have already harmed parishioners. Seek therapy and supervision.
Come to terms with your situation by making immediate changes.

Adapted by Midwest Career Development Service from Gregory W. Brock, Ph.D. from an "At Risk" Test for Marriage and Family Therapists. 315 Funkhouser Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0054.