



Dual Relationships

Despite a common misconception, not all dual relationships are unethical or avoidable. Therapy never involves sexual or any other dual relationship that impairs Ronda D. Shirley, MBA, LMFT's objectivity, clinical judgment or therapeutic effectiveness or can be exploitative in nature. Ronda D. Shirley, MBA, LMFT will assess carefully before entering non-sexual and non-exploitative dual relationships with clients. It is important to realize that in some communities, particularly small towns, small communities, military bases, university campuses, spiritual and rehabilitation communities, etc., multiple relationships are either unavoidable or expected. Ronda D. Shirley, MBA, LMFT will never acknowledge working with anyone without his/her written permission. Many clients have chosen Ronda D. Shirley, MBA, LMFT as their therapist because they knew him/her before they entered therapy with him/her and/or were aware of his/her stance on the topic. Nevertheless, Ronda D. Shirley, MBA, LMFT will discuss with you, the often-existing complexities, potential benefits and difficulties that may be involved in such relationships. Dual or multiple relationships can enhance therapeutic effectiveness but can also detract from it and often it is impossible to know which ahead of time. It is your responsibility to communicate to Ronda D. Shirley, MBA, LMFT if the dual relationship becomes uncomfortable for you in any way. Ronda D. Shirley, MBA, LMFT will always listen carefully and respond accordingly to your feedback. Ronda D. Shirley, MBA, LMFT will discontinue the dual relationship if he finds it interfering with the effectiveness of the therapeutic process or your welfare and of course you can do the same at any time. For overview of different types of multiple relationships, [click here](#).



Phone or Email Therapy

Consulting with clients exclusively over the phone or via text or email rather than in person (face-to-face) in the therapist's office brings additional complexities and potential disadvantages to the therapeutic process. When appropriate, Ronda D. Shirley, MBA, LMFT may recommend that the client/s first choice is to find a local therapist with whom the client/s can meet face to face. If Ronda D. Shirley, MBA, LMFT is not aware of a local referral, one way to find such a therapist is to call the local Psychological Association chapter/ local NASW chapter / local Counseling chapter, etc. Treating clients exclusively via phone consultations or emails may put therapists at a disadvantage because they cannot detect nonverbal cues, may not be able to accurately diagnose, may not always be aware of the resources available locally, and may not be able to intervene as effectively as necessary in emergency situations. Acute crises and severe psychological disturbances, such as schizophrenia, dissociation, bipolar or some types of personality disorders may not be effectively handled exclusively via phone, email or other web based communications. As was noted in the Termination section, above, if Ronda D. Shirley, MBA, LMFT assesses, at any point, that s/he is not effective in helping you reach the therapeutic goals via the telephone sessions, s/he is obligated to discuss it with you and, if appropriate, to terminate treatment. For more information on the topic you can go to:

<http://psychcentral.com/best>.



I have read, understood and agree to the polices outlined for both the phone, text and email procedures as well as dual relationships.

(Client Name)- print

(Date)

(Client Signature)

(Date)