

Unit 4: Professional Boundaries

Professional Boundary Scenarios

1. You observe a co-worker talking to an inmate regularly. The body language indicates flirtation and closeness between them. Both are smiling and laughing more than usual.

How should you respond?

If you decide to talk to your co-worker about it what will you say?

2. An inmate finds you attractive; s/he treats you flirtatiously and does not cease flirtations when you ignore his/her behavior.

What should you do in this situation?

How will you respond and what will you say to diffuse the situation?

3. An inmate, who is a member of the housekeeping crew, always volunteers to get your trash, wash your windows, and do tasks specifically for your benefit. You have been professional in your responses to the inmate but now other staff notices this special treatment.

How should you respond to other staff?

Does this need to be addressed with the inmate? Why or why not?

4. Over the past two months, you notice that one of the nursing staff has been calling the pod requesting the release of a specific inmate to return to the pill line. The inmate seems delighted to go to medical. These requests could be legitimate but because of the increasing frequency and the demeanor of the inmate your interest is raised.

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What red flags do these observations raise?

What would be your best course of action?

5. A new inmate was recently assigned to your dorm. It turns out you know the inmate through a family member. You do not know him/her well, and only hung out a few times with him/her a long time ago. None of your co-workers know that you know the new inmate. You like your post and you can't change your shift because of family care requirements.

How should you respond?

What can you do to maintain professional boundaries?