



New Vision Unlimited

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## PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARY OATH

I understand and agree with the following definitions:

### **Professional**

A person contracted to provide a skilled service either for pay or in the capacity of a volunteer.

### **Participant/Client**

Those who engage or interact with the Professional in the context of the skilled service being provided.

### **Definition of a Professional Boundary**

A boundary is the implicit or explicit demarcation separating the professional relationship with a participant/client from one that is personal. They are limits that allow for safe connections between individuals.

### **What is professional boundary crossing?**

A boundary is crossed when an Professional initiates a behaviour or allows a behaviour to persist in a relationship that compromises or sets a future course that compromises the Professionals relationship with his or her client. The potential for boundary crossings relates directly to the client's position of vulnerability in Professional-Client/Participant relationship and when they occur, the relationship can become unbalanced and destabilized in favour of the Professional.

### **What is a professional boundary violation?**

A boundary violation occurs when the nature of the Professional-Participant/Client relationships moves from being a professional relationship to also being a personal one.

### **Conflict of Interest**

A conflict of interest arises when the Professional has a relationship or interest that could be seen as improperly influencing his or her professional judgment or ability to act in the best interest of the participant/client.

As a professional working with New Vision Unlimited I understand and acknowledge the following:

- The **Ethical Considerations** between myself and participants/clients are of the greatest importance, because there needs to be trust and comfort felt by the participants/clients.
- As the Professional I am always in the position of power and knowledge.
- The Professional-Participant/Client relationship by definition is one of unequal powers.
- I must foster relationships with clients in an ethical, transparent, client-centred manner with respect for diversity of beliefs, uniqueness, values and interests.
- I must exercise utmost care to ensure I do nothing to "exploit the trust and dependency of the participant/client."
- I must assume responsibility for proactively determining the possible risks for boundary violations within the context of my profession . If I am unsure, I will ask New Vision Unlimited for direction.
- I must accept full responsibility for anticipating, establishing and maintaining appropriate boundaries with Clients/Participants at all times.

*"Exploring Vision Without Limits"*

- I must always be in control of the emotional elements of the relationship.
- The consent of a Participant/Client is never a defense to a violated boundary.
- The Professional-Participant/Client relationship is especially vulnerable to abuse.
- I must ensure all contacts with clients/participants maintain professional boundaries, whether in the professional or non-professional setting.
- I must avoid non-professional relationships with current clients/participants.
- I must avoid inappropriate relationships with those associated closely with a client/participant.
- I am expected to deal honestly with participants/clients and colleagues and to respect their rights.
- I have an obligation to honor my duty to participants/clients, my profession and society.
- I am aware that I may be viewed as a role model for others and that my actions, or other peoples' perceptions of my actions, will impact how I am viewed professionally within society.
- I understand that my actions will impact how New Vision Unlimited and its members are viewed within society.

**SELF MONITORING**

I understand I must actively self-monitor and reflect on my action in, and responses to the Professional-Client relationship.

I will:

- Be alert to changing interactions between Professional and Client/Participant
- Avoid inappropriate disclosure of my own personal information or emotional concerns to the Client/Participant.
- Not engage in behaviour that provides special privileges or attention as compared to other Clients/Participants.
- Avoid being alone with a Client/Participant especially with members of the opposite sex in professional and non-professional settings. Even if no boundaries are crossed during the interaction, I understand an allegation can have significant and lasting impacts on my reputation and that of New Vision Unlimited.
- Be alert to increased attention given to clients/participants which might signify a change in the nature of the relationship.
- Be aware of any preoccupation I have about a client/participant beyond the confines of the professional relationship.
- Not engage in touching the Client/Participant in a way that goes outside the parameter of your profession.
- Avoid behaviors which have the potential to be viewed as unprofessional or inappropriate. I will take responsibility for asking my supervisor what is appropriate in my specific professional context.
- Promptly report any boundary infringement or risk of boundary infringement to my supervisor at New Vision Unlimited to receive appropriate guidance and direction.

I have read the above definitions and statements. I understand them agree to abide by them fully.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Professional

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director, New Vision Unlimited

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date