

Boundary Setting Scenarios

1. A support worker disagrees with some scheduling decisions and changes in support being recommended by the agency managers. Rather than raise her concerns with her supervisor, she instead expresses her displeasure to a family member with who she has developed a close relationship. The family member becomes irate and immediately gets on the phone to complain to the manager. What are the boundary issues? How should the manager handle this?
2. You have worked in the field for several years, but just started working for a new agency. You learn that individuals receiving support sometimes spend weekends at the home of agency personnel. Staff are expected to take individuals without families home with them at Christmas. Staff are expected to accompany people on vacation for up to a week at a time: and are asked to give out their home phone numbers to individuals and their families. What are the advantages/disadvantages? What are the other possible considerations?
3. The agency you work for supports both men and women who require close personal support. (bathing, using the toilet etc.). The agency sometimes hires young male and female staff looking to further their education in this field. The agency also accepts students on placement. Female students are involved in all aspects of personal care. Male students are not allowed to be involved in the personal routines. What are the issues? How would you resolve them?
4. You live and work in a small town. You are out working in your front yard and people you support are walking by and stop to visit. How do you handle this?
5. Someone you support asks you a lot of questions about your personal life. How much information do you provide? How do you handle the questions?