

You have been working as a school counselor in an elementary school for the past seven years. You are intimately familiar with the school system, policies, and procedures, and you have formed a strong relationship with Sarah, the only other school counselor in the system. As Sarah and you both know, self-care is critical to preventing burnout and ensuring longterm success as a counselor. To this effect, the two of you have taken multiple weekend getaways together, and you have even brought both of your families together in the past to celebrate the holidays.

Since you are working in a nine month school system, you have decided to spend your summers pursuing a personal passion – learning about adolescent substance use. You have attended a number of workshops addressing substance use, read countless peer-reviewed research articles on the topic, and worked with a number of private practice clients who were experiencing substance use disorders. You are so passionate about the topic that you wrote an editorial in a nationally syndicated newspaper responding to a story that they published on the potential impacts of marijuana decriminalization on school-aged children. Your article was so well received that you were invited to consult with a local judge who is attempting to set up a special court system to address substance use in people who are under the age of 18.

One day you are sitting at your desk at the elementary school, when Sarah walks into your office.

Scenario 1

Sarah tells you that she has recently started a private practice, so that she can see a few extra clients. One of her first clients is a high school student who was brought in by her fathers after they found a bag of marijuana and a pipe in her bedroom. Sarah tells you that she has *no* idea what to do to help her

Consultation/collaboration Ethics Scenario: Dual Relationships

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new private practice client, as her exposure to substance use has been minimal, as she generally works with Kindergarten through third grade students. Sarah asks if she can please hire you as a consultant, so that you can observe some of her sessions and provide her with feedback on her case conceptualization and treatment plan.

How would you apply an ethical decision making model to this scenario?

What do you tell Sarah?

Scenario 1.b

This scenario is the same as Scenario 1, however, you are living in a small, rural town in Michigan's upper peninsula. The next closest counselor with substance use expertise lives several hours away.

How would you apply an ethical decision making model to this scenario?

What do you tell Sarah?

Scenario 2

Sarah tells you that a teacher just confiscated a small bag of marijuana from a student who is on her school counseling caseload. Sarah has few expertise regarding substance use, and asks if you will please collaborate with her on the case.

How would you apply an ethical decision making model to this scenario?

What do you tell Sarah?