

Healers Who Abuse: The Ultimate Betrayal

By Dr. Peter Robbins

While countless incidences of breakthroughs, personal growth, healing and, at times, outright miracles, occur in the counseling process, there are those rare occasions when a healing and therapeutic relationship (therapist, pastor, doctor, attorney, boss, or professor and their “clients”) becomes abusive. The following are helpful facts to guard ourselves from the occurrence of such a tragedy.

When Woundedness Gives Opportunity for More Injury

The wounds of women (the client):

1. Overt sexual, physical, or psychological abuse as a child
2. Profound childhood aloneness and or neglect
3. When parents turn to the child for nurturance, care and guidance for their own wounds
4. Devalued outer potential - “You’ll never amount to anything” or “You’re just a girl. What do you know?”

The wounds of men (the counselor):

1. Misdirected modeling of male sexuality from our culture
2. The Father Wound: The lack of the development of intimacy
3. The Mother Wound:
 - a. The over involved/enmeshed mother
 - b. The under involved/distant
 - c. The mother as the victim

Guarding the Sexual Boundary in Counseling: A Guide for Women

- Tune in and TRUST you intuition, then ACT ON IT.
- Stay sensitive to subtle changes in the relationship.
- Times of appointments, physical space, touch etc.
- Therapy/counseling is to expand your world, not isolate you from it.
- Remember: A counselor’s job is to work himself out of a job. You should need your counselor less and less as time goes by.
- A male therapist may innocently misread your “passion” and appreciation for growth and healing.
- When you feel any discomfort in the relationship, talk to someone about it. Do a “reality check.”

Turning Point Counseling

Visit us at TurningPointCounseling.org ♦ Or call us at (800) 998-6329



- Remember: It is NEVER your responsibility to take care of the counselor
- Beware and be cautious of any outside involvement with your counselor
- Remember: when you back out of a counseling relationship, you may hurt their feelings, but you will not harm them

If you need help or know of anyone who does, first – GET SAFE! Have a plan of action. Only tell ONE trusted person where you are going.

Getting Help

Association Against Client Exploitation by Professionals (AACEP)

P.O. Box 533

Havertown, PA 19083

215-449-6663

Association of Psychologically Abused Patients (APAP)

P.O. Box 9682

Ft. Worth, TX 76147

817-732-6565

Consumers Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE)

5036 N. 56th St.

Milwaukee, WI 53218

414-464-5845

Stop Abuse by Counselors (STOP ABC)

P.O. Box 68292

Seattle, WA 98168

206-243-2723

Turning Point Counseling

Visit us at TurningPointCounseling.org ♦ Or call us at (800) 998-6329

