

Duty To Warn Assignment

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■ The ethical issue in the video *Duty to Warn* refers to the therapist's obligation to warn identifiable person(s) that they may be in danger of harm from a violent client. This is the duty to warn concept. When client presents as a grave danger capable of violence to someone else the therapist has the responsibility to protect the intended person(s) by informing them this is the duty to protect. This means the therapist may have to breach client confidentiality.

New York State currently does not have a "Duty to Warn" law. Although, New York State specifics under the Tarasoff duty to warn statute a therapist has a legal responsibility to breach client confidentiality to reduce possible threat to someone else. This also includes imminent danger to therapist as well.

American Counseling Association (ACA) ethic code B.2.a. Serious and Foreseeable Harm & Legal requirements: suggest that when a therapist experiences a explicit communicated serious threat of harm from their client in session a breach of confidentiality is required to prevent harm or death to identified person(s).

American School Counselor Association (ASCA) code of ethic A.9. Serious and Foreseeable harm to Self and others states that school counselors: "Inform parents/guardians and appropriate authorities when a student poses a serious and foreseeable risk of harm to self or others". (American School Counseling Association, 2014). The ACA and ASCA are similar in context regarding clients that may reveal to be a very serious harm to themselves and or others. They both give clear guidelines what the steps and immediate actions the therapist should take. Report consults with supervisor, contact proper authorities, and disclose always with the client on the issues limiting factors that compromise confidentiality.

What I learned about the video vignette case is that we as therapist have a serious responsibility to keep our clients safe, ourselves and others involved regarding dealing with a potentially violent client. We are called upon to make sensitive decisions that could have outcomes that can either result in preventing harm or escalating the chance that others could be harmed due to our decision making. The strategy I would apply is attempted to take all the preventable steps to enhance probability of a positive outcome when dealing with a violent client. This would include proper documentation of client discussions regarding violent tendencies and seek others for professional consult.

Knowing warning signs for at-risk students with tendencies of violent behavior in our schools need to be identified and assessed by school counselor. “According to the National School Safety Center there are definitive warning signs displayed by-students who are at risk for carrying out an act of violence in a school setting.” (Kamentz,2018). We as counselors need to be proactive identifying these students that may be coming to our counseling sessions and provide interventions to aid in the reduction of violent behavior. This could look like passive aggressive behavior and even bullying toward students/staff during the school day and at home. Displays of violent temper easily triggered for variety of reasons. A diagnosis conduct disorder could certainly apply to violent behaviors towards peers and situations that this individual may experience throughout their daily school routine. 55% of School shootings occurring in 2013-2015 happened while was in school in session (Every Town, 2020). Therefore, a school counselor should not release a student that may be a danger to their self or could be to others during school. School counselor should obtain proper supports that are needed for a student in a possible crisis moment. Such supports would include parents/guardians, police and or local child protective services.

References

American Counseling Association (2014). ACA Code of Ethics. Alexandria, VA: Author.

Kamenetz, A. (2018). Is there any way for schools to prevent shootings? Retrieved from

<https://www.npr.org/2018/02/15/586022815/is-there-any>



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References

Last Name, F. M. (Year). Article Title. *Journal Title*, Pages From - To.

Last Name, F. M. (Year). *Book Title*. City Name: Publisher Name.

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Table 1

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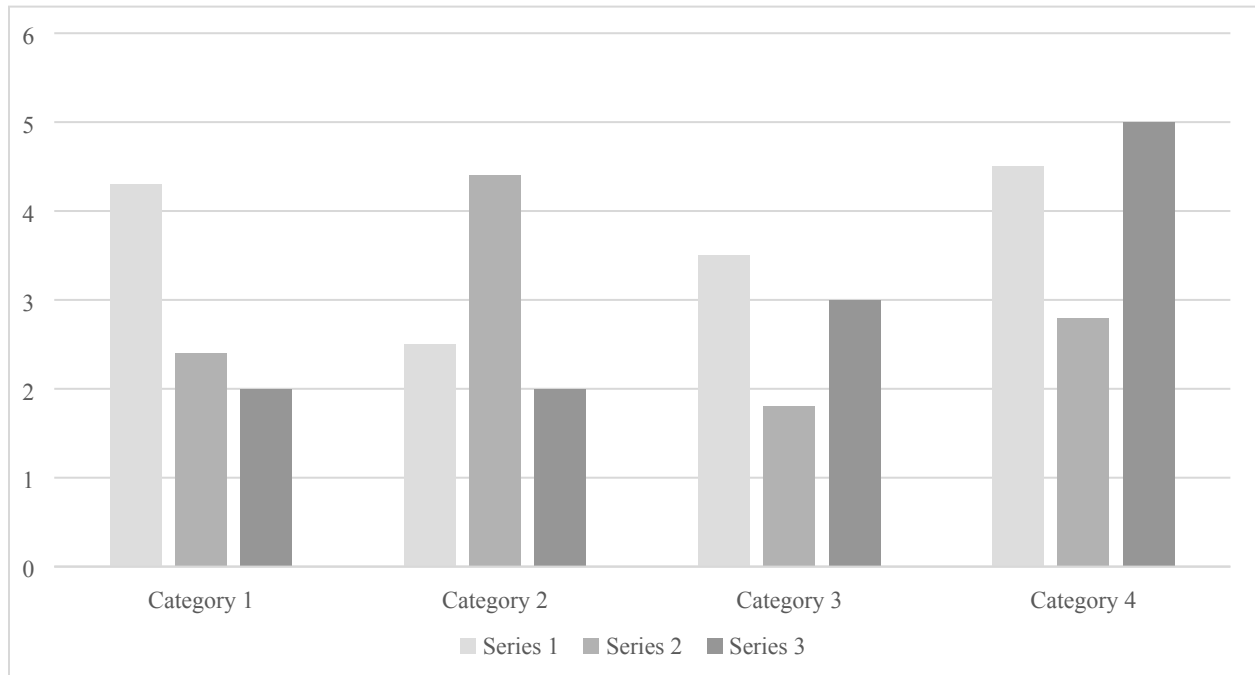


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