

Dharma Teacher Ethics

Correct situation

Correct relationship

Correct function

Ethical Boundaries

1. Sexual: never have relationships with students, sexist jokes
2. Financial relationships and conflicts of interest
3. Dual relationships: No conflicts of interest with sangha members who perform services
4. Personal emotional needs: don't burden students with your problems or expect them to comfort you; monitor you own need for affirmation
5. Ingroup/outgroup: don't favor certain people; everyone should feel they belong; let go of likes and dislikes
6. Special relationship: don't make yourself the center of attention
7. Welcoming sangha: orient new people and make them feel comfortable
8. Treat everyone fairly and with respect (equity and inclusion: be aware of others' race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, age, disability, etc.)
9. Always maintain confidentiality

Avoid the Abuse of Power

- ❖ Spiritual power can be addictive and manipulating! People may see you more as your role than as a person!
- ❖ Create a culture of transparency and honesty... no secrets. Encourage open communication (new ideas & criticisms)
- ❖ We want an empowered and actively involved sangha, not a powerful, guru-like teacher: develop a sense of responsibility in others
- ❖ Realize the influence our words and actions have on others: cause and effect is always in force!
- ❖ Serve as a model of wisdom and compassion
- ❖ Be aware of the disconnect between your intentions and impact
- ❖ Aim for a kinder, gentler sangha vs a strict, sometimes demeaning approach