

# STANDARD 3

# **BOUNDARIES**

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Saskatchewan  
College of Dietitians

## Standard

Registered Dietitians maintain clear and appropriate **professional boundaries** with **clients** and **team members**.

## Indicators

To demonstrate this standard, Registered Dietitians will:

- a) Be sensitive to their position of relative power or influence in professional relationships and not use this status to take physical, emotional, sexual or financial advantage of clients and team members.
- b) Establish and maintain appropriate professional boundaries in relationships with clients and team members.
- c) Respect, establish, and manage effectively, the boundaries that separate their personal and professional relationships/roles in all contexts (e.g., face to face, **virtual dietetic practice**, social media).
- d) Obtain **consent** prior to touching a client.
- e) Refrain from entering professional relationships when current or previous personal, financial, employment, and/or legal affiliations would compromise **professional services** or integrity.
- f) Ensure that **boundary crossings** that cannot be avoided (e.g., treatment of family/friend in specialized or rural practice) are reported to the appropriate authority (e.g., manager, team leader) and strategies to manage are documented (e.g., in the client file, record).
- g) End professional relationships with clients, transfer care when professional boundaries cannot be maintained, and document, as required, how the situation was managed.

## Practice Outcome

Clients can expect Registered Dietitians to maintain clear and appropriate professional boundaries at all times.

## Related Standards

- Assessment and Interventions
- Client-Centred Services
- Conflict of Interest
- Consent
- Professional Practice Obligations

## Resources

• College of Dietitians of British Columbia. (2012). Professional Boundaries in Therapeutic Relations – Where's the Line? Available at: <http://collegeofdietitiansofbc.org/home/documents/2012/Prof-Boundaries-final-Jan-24-12.pdf>

## Saskatchewan Resources

Saskatchewan College of Dietitians. (2005). Saskatchewan College of Dietitians Code of Ethics for Registered Dietitians. Available at: <http://www.saskdietitians.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Code-of-Ethics-SCD.pdf>