

Topic 32: Misconduct in the RC Community

The RC Community is a group of people who are working to regain full access to our innate intelligence and humanness through the process of discharge and re-evaluation. Treating each other well is a basic agreement within the RC Community. We are working to end all forms of mistreatment and oppression.

We have all grown up in oppressive societies and bring our undischarged distresses and patterns of behavior from oppression into the RC Community. We work to prevent the acting out of these distresses and to help people recover when they are mistreated. We also assist each other to reclaim the ability to notice and intervene when oppressive behavior and mistreatment occur, including when we ourselves act in an oppressive manner.

Our experience is that no one oppresses or otherwise harms anyone without first having been hurt or oppressed themselves. When we have access to discharge, we are more successful at ending long-held patterns of acting out distresses, including oppressions, at others.

If Co-Counselors act out their distresses, we want to stop their distressed behavior while reaching for them with caring. Our society oppresses people until they misbehave and then punishes them for acting out the distresses it has installed. Our tools and theory give us a way to address misbehavior in a way that will benefit everyone.

The RC Community has means of addressing misconduct in RC. Our Guideline M.5. Handling Oppressor Patterns including Sexual Misconduct, and Addressing Mistakes, Disagreements, and Criticism spells out our process in detail.

We ask that Co-Counselors who want the help of the RC Community to address misconduct, including the acting out of oppressor patterns, review Guideline M.5. and contact their teacher or Reference Person for assistance.

[Guideline M.5. Part A](#) describes how we handle oppressor patterns, mistakes, disagreements, and criticism in RC. It suggests many steps that can be taken to resolve a concern, with or without the help of an RC leader.

[Guideline M.5. Part B](#) describes how we handle sexual misconduct in RC. Within the RC Community, we are committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of sexual misconduct and harassment. We want to address misconduct in RC if it occurs, promote conditions where misconduct is less likely to occur, and create the conditions for recovery by those who were oppressed or mistreated. Part B offers several options, including a formal “Complaint Resolution Process” to address concerns of sexual misconduct.

It is important that we offer assistance to those who were harmed by misconduct in RC. We usually do this by organizing counseling for the person who was harmed. Those who have acted in harmful ways need to take responsibility for any harm they have caused and to address the underlying causes of their behavior. We can provide resource to all involved while not vilifying any of the individuals.

Resources for addressing sexual misconduct in RC can be found [here](#). All RC leaders are to be trained in addressing sexual misconduct in the RC Community. It is always appropriate to ask for the assistance of RC leadership under Guideline M.5.

QUOTE: WE ARE DETERMINED TO PROMPTLY ADDRESS CONCERNS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND STOP ONGOING MISCONDUCT. WE WANT TO LIMIT THE HARM AND CONFUSION IT CAUSES. WE WILL OFFER THOSE WHO WERE HARMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECOVER FROM THE HARM. THOSE WHO ACTED IN HURTFUL WAYS WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HARM CREATED AND ADDRESS THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THEIR BEHAVIOR. THIS PROCESS CAN MAKE LASTING CHANGE POSSIBLE. *The Re-evaluation Counseling Community Guidelines 2022, Guideline M.5. Reason Part B.*

Readings for the student: "Summary of and Context for the Sexual Misconduct Guideline," [Present Time 209, pages 7 – 8, rc.org/summary_context](#); *The Re-evaluation Counseling Community Guidelines 2022*, [Guideline M.5](#). Handling Oppressor Patterns, Including Sexual Misconduct and Addressing Mistakes, Disagreements, and Criticism, rc.org/publication/guidelines_2022/m05a; "Handling Oppressive Behavior in RC," [Present Time 190, page 32-33, rc.org/publication/present_time/pt190/pt190_032_ds](#)

Additional reading for the Teacher: "[Sexual Misconduct Guideline M.5. Resource Document](#)," [rc.org/sm_resource](#).