

Boundaries: Navigating relationships as professionals

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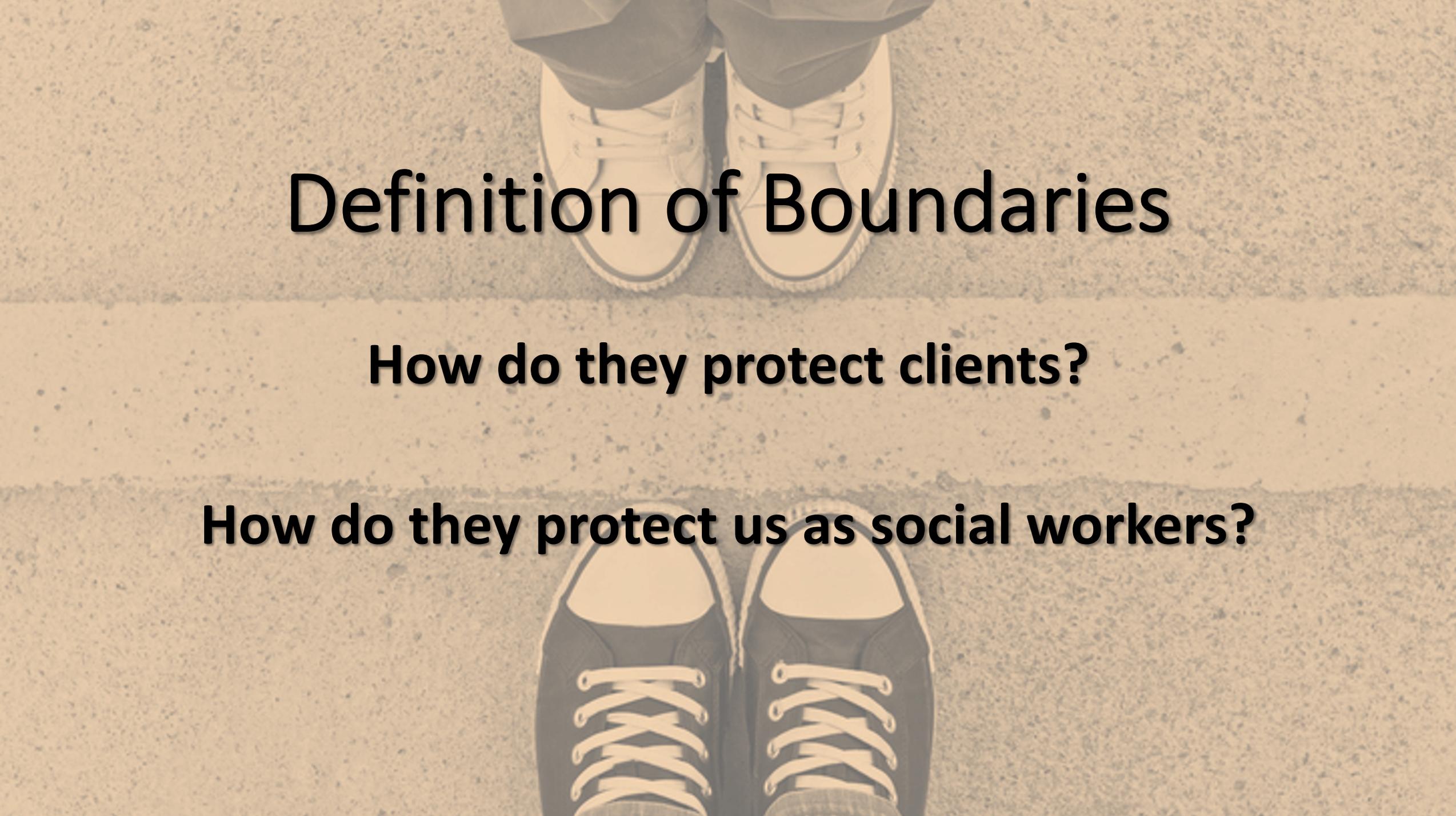


Question/Pop Quiz

What are our three favorite topics of conversation?

Please place answers in the chat so we can see them





Definition of Boundaries

How do they protect clients?

How do they protect us as social workers?



The Clichés: not cliques we want to be part of

- **Over-involved**
- **Under-involved**

Cultural Norms



- **What is a cultural norm?**
 - **Culture: the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group**
 - **Norm: a principle of right action binding upon the members of a group and serving to guide, control, or regulate proper and acceptable behavior**
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Cultural Norms

Not covering face as sneezing	Excuses and incomplete
Close talkers	Soft talker
Lack of eye contact	Hoarding
Man wearing a Yarmulke/Kippah	Gun racks in a truck
Disorganized household routines	Lateness

The Legend, The Myth, The Original

A team goes into a home of client for a family meeting in a multi-generational household. The grandmother escorts the team into the dining room where a homemade meal is offered, as is culturally expected by the family. The team has another appointment in 90 minutes on the other side of town.

- It is lamb, an honor. Two of your three teammates are vegan.**

Milk and Cookies



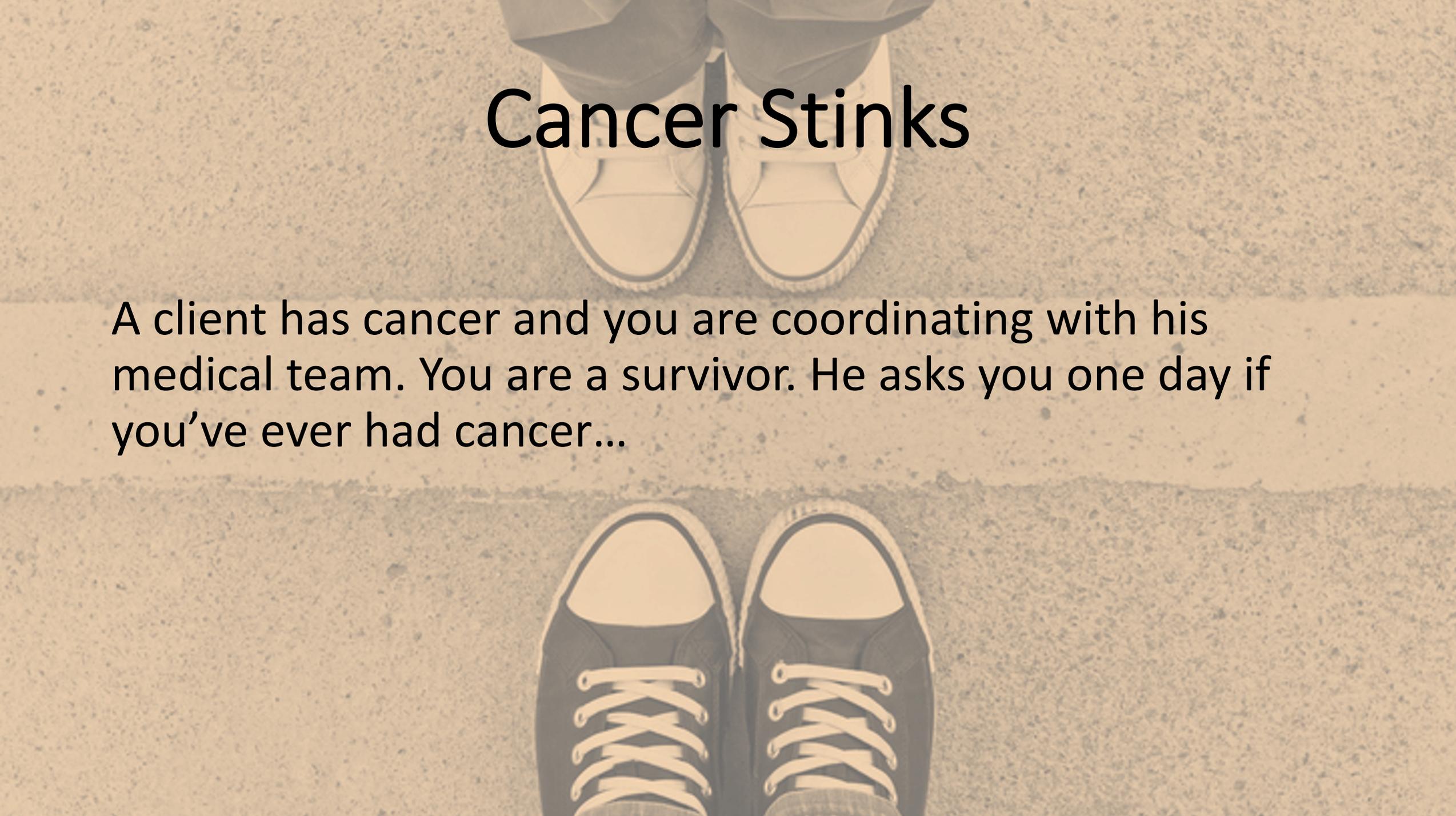
During an appointment where the client takes pre-scheduled transportation, they ask you to return a library book for them. It is on your way.

The next week she calls you and asks you to pick up a book she has placed a hold on at the library. They are expecting you. Do you pick that up?

It's A Small World After All



In the office, a client's care partner stated that they have stopped attending their 12-step meetings. Your teammate makes a reference to having attended the same meeting. They start to talk about people they both know, benefits to working the program, etc.



Cancer Stinks

A client has cancer and you are coordinating with his medical team. You are a survivor. He asks you one day if you've ever had cancer...

Recommendations

A client is nervous about taking medication for anxiety. The client mentions that a team member disclosed they've taken it before and it worked well for them.

The client asks a few questions about the medication and side effects and decides to try it. Client resumes discussion of their treatment.



Family

You are speaking with an elderly client. They ask why you are not wearing a wedding ring, if you have children...



Do we need to disclose to connect?

A client is having a difficult time building trust. It's been a few weeks. You know you have children in the same sports league and this could bridge that divide. You offer up a few pictures, chat about the games and people you have in common. About 15 minutes later you start to address the work you've laid out to complete.

Corrections



A lot of what the scenarios bring up are things out of our control. Life

How we react greatly affects our relationships with our clients and team members.

Think of boundaries as fluid. Geographically they are ever changing as are our relationships.

The most important thing we need to learn is how to adjust ours.





What are your thoughts?