

Journal #1- Professionalism

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I am doing field at a non-profit organization that offers various services to the Washington Heights community including an after-school program which is where I am working. There is a group of about 60 students ranging from kindergarten to high school freshman's which are assigned to four group leaders. My work there is as a mental health consultant, helping students when they struggle with behavioral issues as well as a support to the staff.

This past week there was a situation with two of the students where they ran away at the time the group leader MS J was picking her group from their school. Since the moment Ms J started working at the afterschool I have been observing her and even though she is not a social worker Ms J hasn't display a sense of professionalism with the students, students families and coworkers. When the parents of student S and student Y came in to discuss event that had taken place earlier, Ms J did not wait for the program director to call her in and immediately proceeded to approach student S mother in a manner that was impolite and unprofessional, telling her how S was a horrible child to deal with and a child that did not listen therefore she did not want to work with him, she spoke to this parent as if they have known each other. I thought the code of ethics "Importance of Human Relationships" was broken by Ms J in this case, as professionals we must understand that relationship between and among people are an important vehicle for change. Ms N the program director asked me to intervene by speaking to student "S" mother about the situation while she spoke with Ms J about breaking student

confidentiality by approaching the parent in front of other students. The director proceeded to give Ms J a written second warning, since it is not the first time she has this behavior.