

“Do Your Clients Blame You For Some Things, Even When You Are Trying To Help?”

A Message For Family Services Staff

This message isn't too complicated for family services staff. I basically want you to do the same thing. Remember that when you bond to young people they think the **world of you**. Young people automatically **desire** and seek **approval** of older people. So if you ever find yourself in situations where you need to teach a client a lesson about respect, I say **go for it**. Do not worry about whether or not that makes the student happy or they are criticizing you. When they get to a place where they can use that lesson you taught them and then they catch you smiling at them one day they will most likely come over to you all excited and give you some sort of report on their success and **thank you for it**.

Good example:

- I had a high school principal with a grade 12 student still doing grade 11 courses. He didn't come to school much, was known as **a bully**, nowhere close to passing his classes and having **ultra extreme troubles** at home with his good parents and they were good parents, just a little too soft. This kid got angry easily and **punched many holes** in the wall in his bedroom, and his siblings wouldn't even come home. The principal firmly believed this kid needs to stay in school and gave him many breaks and forgiveness. His parents were at **a total loss**, and the child was super **critical** and **nasty** to everyone.
- Then I came and taught the adults a lesson, I have never met the kid once. Right away I told his school principal he is done, school was over a long time ago he just hasn't left yet, let it go, high school diploma is completely irrelevant and he is learning that rules don't matter by the school forgiving him so many times, so boot him out. Then I told the parents to get set up with rules for the household and make **anyone homeless** if they do not obey. I set them up with one of my famous residency agreements. The kid couldn't follow the rules, he freaked out, and out in the **snow bank** he went (according to the special way my agreements evict youth). He went to grandma's, she gave him the boot after 4 weeks, he came home and **earned his way back home** (according to my agreement's method of letting children come home)
- The whole time this was going on he cursed and swore at his parents and school staff in ways you couldn't imagine. He even tore off part of his mom's dashboard in her car.
- **What happened?** Well he came home a little shaken up by homelessness and rejection, and a lot **more humble** than he was

before. He wasn't even allowed to enter the house until he gave a **15 minute explanation** of how his actions were affecting his parents. Then they said he needed to apply for a job 3 times a day until he gets one or it is the snow bank for him. He got a job at a local mechanical company, and found that he is not a bad labourer. Most importantly though "**the guys**" at work (who are older) accepted him and invited him for beers and steak sandwiches after work with "**the guys**". As soon as this happened the young troubled man's **self esteem** and **confidence** went through the roof. Apparently that was what he needed this whole time. He works every day, put new drywall in his entire bedroom, and bounces out of the house at night. With no problem hugging his mom smiling at her, and clapping his dad on the back. He doesn't care about school and I don't blame him. School should have booted him out a long time ago. Now the boy **acknowledges** all the people who were tough with him because they earned his **respect**, even though he cursed them at the time.

Moral of the story: Always teach youth a lesson, who cares if they like it, they will thank you later.

Call to action:

- Do the call to action on the parenting newsletter.
- Forward this email and "**family services portion**" to two other workers in other agencies who you think could really use this insight, or would really agree with it.

If you want to do this with your own children, and practice, and bring it to your office and use it on clients and would like some help then call me.

I can help you with that. I can give you some clear ideas on how to set boundaries? How to have a plan to follow? That's what I do, that part of the process is my expertise. I offer you a **strategy session** a chance to sit down and iron out a plan for what **to say** and what **to do**.

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To learn about Tom's program and strategy for agency staff, their clients, parents and young people.

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