

## LETTER OF TERMINATION TO CLIENT FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

### **Note to Therapists:**

Professional ethical codes state that therapists may terminate clients whose behavior is inappropriate or dangerous, such as stalking the therapist, acting in an aggressive or sexual manner, or violating privacy boundaries of the therapist or the therapist's family. Certainly, the first consideration here is your own safety, that of your family, and of your co-workers or employees. You may need to make a police report or seek a civil protective order to ensure your safety.

It is critical that you document all inappropriate behavior as thoroughly as possible. It is likely that you may also wish to consult your own attorney.

Obviously, you will not want to continue providing therapy to a client who is threatening or inappropriate. To ensure there is a clear break and you are no longer acting in a therapeutic role, you can document the termination with a letter, if it will not jeopardize your safety or violate any protective orders.

You should check with your professional association to see if there are additional guidelines for termination under these circumstances. Obviously, if a client represents a danger, you should not provide referrals to other therapists.

The following letter is meant to be a guide only. Please modify it to suit your own policies and practices as well as the specific situation.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ (*client name*):

I am writing to inform you of the termination of your treatment with me, effective today. As my policies state, therapy may be terminated in the case of any inappropriate behavior on the part of the client.

I am attaching a copy of the policy to which you agreed at the beginning of treatment. I will not be able to continue to provide therapy because

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[state specific reason as briefly and objectively as possible]*

Please do not attempt to contact me in the future.

Sincerely yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Therapist signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Therapist printed name