

MENTOR REFERENCE GUIDE



Defining Confidentiality

To ensure clarity and be sure you and your mentee are “on the same page” about what confidentiality means in a relationship, you may want to use the exercise below. You and your mentee will want to agree on your mutual definition of confidentiality as it relates to your skills building partnership.

Answer *yes* or *no* to each item based on your beliefs and assumptions about confidentiality.

___ 1. What we discuss stays between us for as long as we are engaged in our mentoring relationship unless information is shared that must be disclosed by law.

___ 2. After our formal mentoring relationship has ended, it is fine to talk about what we discussed or how we related.

___ 3. If there is a demonstrated need to know, I can appropriately disclose our conversations, my impressions, or anything else that pertains to this relationship.

___ 4. What we say between us stays there unless you give me permission to talk about it with others.

___ 5. Some issues will be kept confidential while others will not.

___ 6. It is okay to discuss how we relate to one another but not the content of our discussions.

___ 7. It is okay to talk about what we discuss about as long as it is positive.
