

RED FLAG READINESS

Coaching Protocols for High-Stakes Moments

Use when the conversation shifts from progress to protection.

Coach Check

Before proceeding with any “fix,” ask:

- **Is this coachable, or is it clinical/legal/professional?**
- **Am I the right person for this moment?**
- **What boundary must be clarified, not shifted?**

When in Doubt

- Pause the coaching
- Name the concern
- Refer or seek supervision
- Your job is not to absorb—it’s to *contain*.

Tier 1: Immediate Action Required

These situations risk harm, breach, or ethical overreach if ignored. Act now.

Scenario	Risk	Response Tool
Client displays emotional instability, trauma disclosures, or suicidal ideation	Coaching outside scope → client harm	Clinical Referral Toolkit
Client treats you like therapist/friend/parent—or crosses personal boundaries	Role confusion → ethical breach	Scope-Secure Framework + Referral Scripts
You suspect your interpretation of a client is culturally inappropriate or biased	Cultural harm → trust erosion	Cultural Dimensions Tool
You feel unsafe, manipulated, or professionally compromised	Coach harm → liability or burnout	Scope-Secure Framework + Peer Consult Protocol (internal)

Tier 2: Escalation Risk—Monitor Closely

Not urgent, but chronic neglect leads to boundary erosion or reputational damage.

Scenario	Concern	Recommended Action
You're avoiding documentation because it's tedious or unclear	Legal exposure in disputes	Coaching Documentation Best Practices
You keep "helping" past your coaching boundaries out of guilt or ego	Creeping scope = dependency	Revisit Timeline + Readiness Assessment
Client routinely cancels, overshares, or breaches policies without discussion	Disrespect of coaching container	Review Coaching Agreement Walkthrough + boundaries scripts
You're regularly drained, anxious, or ambivalent before certain sessions	Integrity signal	Self-Reflection Prompt Card (internal), consider peer debrief