
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well here it is: another Friday! And a beautiful day in the neighborhood! I started off this week with a couple of days of rest. Yep, Yours Truly took a long weekend and relaxed a bit. I actually played golf one day while I was off. My game is rusty, not that it was very good to begin with, but it was nice to just try to move that little yellow ball around the course and not worry about anything else for four and a half hours. My leg is holding up pretty well. I think it will take a whole year before it feels normal again, but I am not letting it stop me. And I am now like a Doppler radar. I can tell you when the weather is changing, when a cold front is moving in or out. Quite handy, really. I notice the more the limp, the greater the drop in degrees of temperature. My leg can now tell me when the fish are biting and the cows are sleeping (barometric pressure!).

So, I hope that our veterans were duly recognized on Veterans Day. We owe a great deal to those who have served and continue to serve our country. We are a free country because our blessings are defended by these women and men. I know many of you have served our country, or our family members! A special thanks to my Dad, Sgt. George Livers of the 487th Army Air Force!

I hate to mention this in the same breath, but we did have a couple of generals get some unwanted attention this week. What a mess. I must take this opportunity to seize a "teaching moment." How sad that such a high ranking military officer is ending his high profile public service career with this kind of thing. I know I have discussed this before in *What's Up, Doc?*, but we must keep talking about it. Professionals keep professional boundaries. Whether you are a general, psychologist, teacher, counselor, director, juvenile justice specialist, maintenance employee, probation officer, or administrative assistant, all employees are expected to maintain appropriate boundaries. A safe and healthy work environment is free from sexual comments, sexual harassment, sexual behavior, sexual pictures, sexual jokes, sexual anything. Plain and simple! Professionals maintain professional boundaries. A sexual relationship at work with a co-worker is a really bad idea, and complicates many things. It could affect your promotional opportunities. Do you really want your personal business discussed among your peers and co-workers? If you are married, then sexual relationships become a source of secrecy, corruption and conspiracy, and even blackmail. Very messy stuff indeed. Sexual relationships with those we supervise is abuse. It is against the law. It is sick. It will not be tolerated in this agency. So here is the message. I know that our society promotes sex in everything... commercials, TV shows, movies, videos, on and on....but we, as professionals, have no room for a sexualized work environment. If you are part of this, stop it now. If you see it, stop it now. We all want a safe and healthy place to work, and we are mandated to provide a sexually safe environment for the youth we supervise. For all of you who do promote safety, and respect, and who do promote and exhibit professional boundaries, I thank you. For those who are flirting with a volatile situation or have already crossed a line, correct the situation quickly. You still may have a chance to get it right.

That said, I know the vast majority of OJJ staff are decent, hardworking, respected and respectable professionals, and I want to thank each and every one of you, in every office and facility, for your work and steadfast dedication to meeting the mission, every day. Wishing you a wonderful fall weekend, and a very happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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