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Cross-cultural Differences in Preferred Forms of Address: Implications for Work with African American Adults

Wanda Lott Collins, Sharon E. Moore

Abstract

Using an individual's last name indicates respect and contributes to positive interaction with African American clients and adults of African descent. This paper discusses the importance of using social titles as a proper form of address during, and sometimes after, the initial professional relationship. Two case vignettes will highlight potential difficulties that non-African American practitioners may experience when using first names with African Americans within the professional realm. The vignettes include a scenario for a supervisor and a client.

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TO CONTACT OUR MAIN CAMPUS:
Indiana University School of Social Work
902 West New York Street
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, 46202
Voice: 317.274.6705
FAX: 317.274.8630
TDD/TTY: 317.278-2050

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Comments: iussw@iupui.edu

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