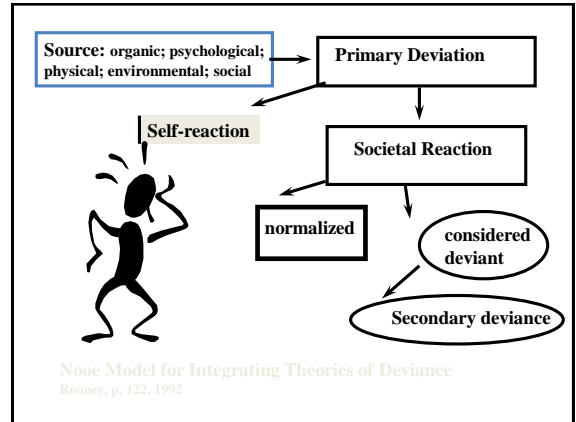


Ron Rooney
 Professor
 School of Social Work
 University of Minnesota

Acknowledging the Privacy and Involuntary Status of Families in the Child Welfare System: How Should Practice Respond to "Codes of Silence and Secrets" Held within a Family and Their Children?



Resistance

- **Original connotations:** normal; therapist's responsibility; unconscious; with voluntary clients
- **Current:** abnormal; client's fault; conscious; includes involuntary
- **Consequences:** client blaming; self-fulfilling prophecy of failure; secondary deviance; makes practitioner and client powerless



The Escalation Spiral I

- *You are charged with..You committed*
- *Who says? This isn't fair!*
- *You are required to..You must comply with.*
- *What gives you the right? I am being persecuted!*



The Escalation Spiral II

- *Let me share with you the information I have; I want to hear your side so that we can plan where to go from here*
- *I am required to ___; you are required to ___*
- *Your choices are...*



REACTANCE THEORY: normal response to threat of loss of valued freedoms

- *Find loophole*
- *Try to take freedom back directly*
- *Value prohibited behavior more than ever*
- *Hostility or aggression*
- *Incite others to restore freedom*
- *Watch others attempt to restore freedom*

Reactance Patterns

- Thoughts & Feelings
- Who are you?
- Is this important?
- Why me?
- I don't deserve this
- Anger, fear, disgust, resentment, disappointment, out of control
- Actions
- minimal effort
- avoidance
- violence, aggression
- explore options
- complain, argue

Ways to Reduce Reactance

- *Expect* it to occur and not disappear on its own
- Contract to *regain* freedom
- Focus on *specific* rather than global changes
- 1+ *alternative*; even constrained choices
- Don't *overemphasize* changes
- emphasize *freedoms remaining*
- acknowledge role of **situation**
- avoid **blaming & labeling**
- plan *small, feasible* steps; reward progress

Strategic Self-Presentation

efforts to manage the impressions others have of us to better reach our goals

- ❖ Ingratiation: make *self more attractive*
- ❖ Intimidation: *try to elicit fear*
- ❖ Supplication: *throw self at mercy*
- ❖ Selective confession or face work
- ❖ Self-promotion: *emphasize competence*
- ❖ Exemplification: *emphasize worthiness*



Use of Strategic Self-Presentation

- Employee review
- Divorce Court
- Job Placement interviews
- seek 3rd party payment
- Dealing with children
- Family events with in-laws

