

## Who's Got the Power?



Power is a neutral tool which can be used for positive or negative outcomes. When power is treated as an opportunity to do good for others and the agency, everyone benefits. There are a number of businesses, institutions, and churches where there is an inherent imbalance of power between those involved. In settings where authority and power exist for one but not all, there is a risk of abuse of that power and authority. The employee-offender relationship is not an equal one. When inappropriate and/or illegal relationships develop between employees and offenders, the "imbalance" becomes abusive and carries great risk for those involved.

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1. A supervising officer allows an offender on his case load to paint his home and the officer pays the offender for the work. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. An offender arrives for their regularly scheduled in office meeting to discover the officer in the parking lot changing a flat tire on his/her car. The offender offers to change the tire for the officer and the officer accepts the offer. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. An offender returns from an approved trip out of state to see their dying mother, bearing gifts for the officer and the officer accepts the gifts. \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. After a few visits with a probationer the officer realizes that he and the probationer came from the same small town and while there is an age difference they attended the same grade school and high school. \_\_\_\_\_  
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