

IMPORTANT POINTS OF THE VIDEO “CROSSING THE LINES”

PRESENTATION

This video is aimed to identify and avoid staff behaviors that may lead to inappropriate relationships with students.

The video begins with a fictional high school teacher (Jim Purvis) correcting assignments after regular school hours when an emotional student (Cindy) walks in and wants him to close the door, giving them isolation and privacy. Then Bernice enters the scene, an unknown character who initially tries to stop him from crossing the line - Bernice has the ability to transport the teacher to the past to change the behaviors that led him to cross the line with the student, then into the future where you can see first-hand where the many consequences of crossing the line with students can lead you. The video offers a satisfying ending where the teacher gets what real-life teachers might not get: a second chance.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Cindy enters the classroom crying. She asks Jim if he is alone; Jim asks what is wrong with him. Cindy sits in the teacher's chair and asks him to close the door.

Jim goes to the door to close it; they are very curious to know who might be spying on them. Upon closing the door, he makes sure no one is looking at them. While trying to close the door, Bernice stops it with his hand and says to Jim: "Don't do it." When he's talking to Bernice, the door locks itself.

Then he starts to see himself stroking Cindy's hair and then they hug.

When he begins to open the door, the assistant principal enters the scene. The assistant principal asks Jim if he has lost the keys. Jim asks her if she has seen Bernice and if she was with her student. The assistant principal asks Jim if he is referring to student Cindy. The assistant principal asks Jim to come with her because they need him at the front office.

IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

While Jim waits in the conference room, he receives a text message from Cindy:

Cindy: Are you there?

Jim: Yes, you were just in my classroom, right?

Cindy: I told you I stayed home sick today. Can you call?

Jim: L8r (later)

Bernice walks into the room with a folder in hand and Jim asks her what is going on and if she is an investigator. Bernice flips through his employee file reminding him of years of service as a teacher and awards won. Then they have this conversation:

Bernice: “Must have been a lot of blood, sweat and tears, all to be thrown away by crossing the lines.”

Jim: “I have not done anything illegal.”

Bernice: “But you will; guaranteed. Why don't you just go home?”.

Jim: "Am I being suspended?". "Do I need an attorney?"

Bernice: "You need more than that; much more. Go home. That is all".

AT HOME

Jim comes home. When he is trying to open the door of his house, Bernice comes on the scene and says: "remember, you changed the code". Jim gets mad and says, "Look! I know my rights".

THE SCENE IS NOW SUNNY

Bernice reminds Jim about last semester when he accepted Cindy and other students on social media. It was a Saturday, **the first day he crossed the line**. Bernice asks Jim to look inside the house. When Jim looks in, he sees his wife and children and then he sees himself at his desk with his laptop.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

While he is at his computer, his wife asks what he is working on. He tells his wife that he is updating his rosters. Then he receives a message via Facebook from Cindy with her photograph that says: "Hey Jim with this link to snapchat.com, we can send messages and pictures and they disappear like this picture".

Bernice enters the scene and says: "If I were you, I would delete every student you accepted on social media. That is usually the first line that leads to that downward spiral"; Jim begins deleting messages. Bernice tells him: "kids are not even in Facebook these days because adults are. They are on Instagram, Kik, Snapchat"; Jim finishes deleting the messages.

Bernice: "You've only just begun".

The living room moves, and they appear in the dining room.

THE DINING ROOM

Bernice and Jim are sitting at the table and Bernice tells Jim that this is the day of that fateful conversation with both Cindy (the student) and Wendy (the wife).

The wife enters the dining room and tells Jim that they need to talk. She wants to send her children to daycare so she can go back to work. She tells him that it only costs \$ 50 a week. While Jim is having this conversation with the wife, the phone begins to vibrate. Enter a text message from Cindy. The wife asks if it is that student again and Jim says that he has to be able to communicate with his students.

Bernice le dice a Jim "But your messages to the student have become social. You're texting late at night. Inappropriately".

Cindy's text says: "Hey, I need to talk". Jim responds: "You cannot text me like this EVER again." Everyone disappears from the dining room and only Jim remains.

Jim hears the car running outside and gets up from the table calling for Wendy. He runs outside because he thinks someone is stealing the car. When he gets outside, he sees Bernice in the car calling for him to come with her because time is running out. He gets in the car and starts driving.

This is their conversation:

Jim: "I can't wait to wake up from this nightmare".

Bernice: "Trust me it is not a nightmare, it's daytime. This is the day you crossed the line to take her in your car".

Jim: "She said she needed a ride to practice; her family's car was broken down".

Bernice: "Sure; that's what she said. You didn't even question it. You didn't tell her to find a ride".

Jim says he won't stop and continues driving. Cindy is perplexed / upset. Jim comments that Cindy is going to be really upset. Bernice tells him that she is his student not his friend. Students get upset at teachers all the time – draw a line.

Jim repeats the same phrase: "she's a student, not a friend" and asks if that's all, if he's finished. Bernice tells him that they have one more place to go.

THE PARK

Jim stops the car and he and Bernice start talking.

Jim: "I have never been here with her or with any student. Ever".

Bernice: "Not yet, but you will".

Jim: "Not a chance. No. I love my wife, I love my family".

Bernice: "Come on. You want to see this".

Bernice takes him inside the park and says: "This is where all this will lead you".

Jim watches the scene where he himself gives Cindy a gift bag. They are headphones. She thanks him and they hug.

Bernice tells Jim, "I bet you those headphones cost more than bunch of Mother's Days out."

Cindy tells Jim she's cold and asks if they can go sit in the car. He says yes and they walk away.

Meanwhile, Bernice is telling Jim, "Convicted teachers always seem to say, "I don't know how this happened". Now you do."

Jim runs to the car to try to stop them. Jim and Cindy get in the car and start kissing. Jim is behind the locked fence. Bernice tells him: "And this is where the law is broken. Inappropriate relationship with a student. It's over for you". Jim runs off.

AT HOME

Jim runs home. As he runs, he hears Bernice's voice telling him: "it's over." He comes home. When his wife opens the door, the police arrive, handcuff Jim and tell him that he is under arrest for having had an

inappropriate relationship with a student. The wife is outside with him when this happens and asks him: "What did you do? There are neighbors outside watching everything."

IN COURT

Jim is in a jail cell when another inmate enters who intimidates him. Already in court with his lawyer, he sees Cindy and her parents.

The judge tells Jim: "You have been found guilty of a felony offense and it is now my job to sentence you. But I have to tell you Mr. Purvis that this has been one of the most outrageous cases I have heard in the 15 years on the bench. You took advantage of a 16-year-old girl. A child to whom you were her teacher. She trusted you. Her parents trusted you to help her, to mentor her, and you took advantage of that trust. Do you understand that you ruined her life? She is now having suicidal thoughts and has to see a therapist for what you did to her. She is 16. I find this disgusting Mr. Purvis and I am very happy to let you know that I am now going to sentence you to 20 years in a state penitentiary."

Jim begins to cry. Cindy's dad tells him: "wait until you get out".

AGAIN, IN THE CLASSROOM

Jim is in his classroom rubbing his face. Cindy's voice says: "Jim, Jim, are you alone?"

Jim responds, "Cindy, don't call me Jim. I am Mr. Purvis ok? What's wrong?"

Cindy: "Well, can you please shut the door?"

Jim: "No. Are you ok?" Then Jim asks Cindy to take a seat, that he will get an administrator to help.

Jim goes to find the assistant principal.

The End.