I'm wondering what roles we all play when it comes to discipline. Do you handle student discipline? No If so, how frequently and what are the circumstances? Do you feel it is a conflict for you to discipline the students you work with regularly?  Yes How do you handle it when a teacher approaches you about an issue that you feel should be handled by an administrator? Tell them they need to speak with an administrator.

I do not deal with discipline. My principal and Dean and I have worked out a system where any discipline goes to them and any social emotional goes to me. However, if one of us is not available we will step in to help the other so I have dealt with discipline in the past, but not very much at all. I do not believe it is our role and I believe it can hurt our relationship with the student.

We are never involved in discipline. It poses to be a problem because students will not want to come to you if your are in that role. If a teacher approaches, I tell them they should go to administration with it.

We do not handle anything discipline related and I didn't at my previous school either. The assistant principals take care of all of that. They may ask us to help with a peer mediation or sit in to help the student if they feel it is more of a social/emotional cause instead of true discipline

I only handle discipline if both of my principals are out and if the situation cannot wait till they return. If a teacher approaches me about a situation I tell the to write the student up in our discipline log to have a paper trail even if the teacher handles the situation. I will meet with students who are in trouble a lot but only to assist in figuring out what is happening and to give them an outlet.

I am in a small school and sometimes I have to deal with discipline when the principal is out. I do not necessarily feel it is a conflict. It depends on how you handle it. You can use it as a teaching moment.

If someone is sent to me with an issue that I believe is discipline and the administrator is in the building I send it to them. Also, they send me kids for things like first time bullying (I do an education piece and then if it occurs a 2nd time, they go to discipline. If it is something serious, they go straight to discipline).

There are times that our administrator will do discipline but when they are finished with the student will send them to me because they feel there are deeper issues.

Our office works as a team, we are small, and sometimes our jobs cross over. There are times that I am out of the building and they have to be the ear to listen to students. They will call for advice on what to do and pinch hit for me.

I don’t handle discipline that has consequences. I will talk to students if there is a peer conflict or reports of bullying. But if I feel that it is serious enough, I report it to administration.  If a teacher tells me something that I feel needs reported, I either tell them to go to administration or if they were quickly stopping in between classes and don’t have time and I do, I go and tell admin for them.

I personally set a boundary between “coaching” a student or mediating a disagreement between students and discipline.

I do not discipline students and if a teacher approaches me about an issue that is discipline, I just let the teacher know that this is a discipline issue and is handled by one of our assistant principals.

I almost never do discipline. And, I never, ever provide consequences. I may tell people to stop that or talk to them about what might happen or how to prevent it from happening in the future. Sometimes, after the AP has told them they have to miss recess or will be suspended, I work with students on some other choices they could have made. Sometimes the AP and I will sit together with students to talk through issues. He will take it from a discipline side, I will take it from a therapeutic side. That is usually what happens when the teachers come to me about an issue I feel is a discipline thing or teachers go to him with something he feels is more of a drama/social issue. I do feel it is a conflict for the counselor to be doing discipline, and my administration backs me up on that.

I am at a middle school now where I handle almost no discipline aside from things like writing up an infraction log if I see a student doing something they should not (such as throwing food while I'm on cafe duty).  The other time I might occasionally discipline is when a relational aggression situation is going on and I've been brought in to mediate (girls calling each other names, etc.).

When I was in an elementary setting, I was the person "in charge" if both administrators were out.  This often meant I was in charge of "fact finding" to give them all necessary information for them to discipline upon their return.   One time I was required to dole out an ISS when my administrators were both out of town for a conference.

I do think it is a conflict for the school counselor/school social worker to play a major part in discipline with any student, not just the ones that I work with regularly.   Our role is greatly diminished when students see us in that light.  Not only do I not have the desire to be a disciplinarian, I also do not have the correct licensing to do so.

When a teacher approaches me with a situation that I think is an administrator role, I usually say something like, "Have you told {Assistant Principal} that?"  or "Can you put that in an email and make sure to put {Assistant Principal} on that?"  I've even joked before and said, "This sounds more like a discipline issue to me, way above my pay grade!"

I would redirect the teacher to the administrator.  There are times when I have intervened in minor issues with a student to caution them about getting into trouble, but if it gets to a point that requires discipline, I pass that along.  I have given out one detention in 13 years.  I just don't feel that it is a counselor's role, and it can damage the relationship that we have with students.

I think it is confusing to students who have counselors be in both the discipline role and a counselor role though I think this often happens at the elementary level as when the admin is out, there often isn't an assistant, so it naturally goes to the counselor or social worker to deal with situations as they arise.  In situations like this it could be good for the counselor or social worker to be the one to process with a student when they do get in trouble, but then the admin should be the one to give the consequence when they return if that's possible (if it was a physical fight on the playground or something that's a bigger issue and maybe couldn't or shouldn't return to the classroom, that would most likely fall on you to address, unless you have another administrator in a building close by).  We have done that in the past.

At the junior/senior high level I do not handle discipline for students.  I often sit in on the discipline conversation with my student and the administrator as more of the "mediator" to help my students have someone they know and trust and to help my students understand what the administrator is communicating to them and to help them learn through the experience.  I am not part of the actual discipline as that comes from the administrator. I also help to keep the student regulated.

If a teacher approaches me about a situation that needs to be addressed by an administrator, I have them write a referral and I will often process through the situation with the student and help them with problem-solving for how they could handle the same situation in the future and to determine what the next step is in regards to the student trying to repair a relationship if needed.

I do not handle any discipline here. At my previous school, I did have to get involved from time to time. We usually did a good cop/bad cop situation where I was present so that the student who was in trouble might feel more comfortable and/or willing to open up and be honest about what they did and why they did it. Generally, I do not like being involved with discipline because it is a conflict of interest when I'm trying to establish and maintain rapport with my students.

Definitely a conflict. I would not take a job that had me doing discipline. Period.

For counselors asked to handle student discipline, they are risking an ethical violation of dual relationships (relationship in which a school counselor is concurrently participating in two or more roles with a student), which ASCA ethical standards state:

*A.5 School counselors: a. Avoid dual relationships that might impair their objectivity*

Also, ASCA includes the following on their list of Appropriate and Inappropriate Activities for School Counselors: "performing disciplinary actions or assigning discipline consequences."

So while it's not prohibited by state rule, etc., it is not ethical or sound professional practice.

I do in a pinch, but there is a fine line between discipline and SEL needs (at least in our P-K through 3rd building).  I refer to the TOR if the student is SPED and to the administrator but sometimes both administrators are out. I do not suspend as I am not licensed for admin. but if it is needed I call for the principal or assistant to make that decision.

As a school counselor, I do not handle discipline, but I do offer emotional support to students involved in disciplinary action if needed.