



accountabili-buddy

CLARITY. COMMITMENT. FOLLOW THROUGH.



CASE
STUDIES

CASE STUDY 70

THE CLIENT CONCEALS A MISS

1. TRAINING OBJECTIVE

Respond to inaccurate reporting without turning accountability into surveillance, interrogation, or moral judgment.

2. CLIENT PROFILE

Client: Simone

Goal: Complete a professional training program

Commitment: Three modules weekly

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND

Simone reports completing all three modules.

During the following conversation, she casually mentions material indicating that only two were completed.

INTERACTION 1

Accountabili-Buddy: Last week you reported all three modules completed. You just said you finished the third one Monday. Help me reconcile those two things.

Simone: Yeah.

Simone: I only did two last week.

Simone: I knew you were going to ask, and I did not want to say I missed again.

4. PROVISIONAL EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

The inaccurate report matters because accountability depends on reasonably accurate behavioral information.

The relevant problem is not merely the missed module.

The reporting process has become distorted.

5. PROVISIONAL FORMULATION

Client concealed non-follow-through to avoid discomfort associated with reporting failure.

6. RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

“The missed module is workable. Inaccurate reporting creates a bigger problem because then we are making decisions from false information. I want to understand what about telling me you missed felt difficult enough that saying it was done seemed easier.”

INTERACTION 2

Simone: I felt embarrassed.

Simone: You had already helped me reduce the goal from four to three, so missing three felt ridiculous.

Simone: I thought you would think I was not trying.

7. UPDATED FORMULATION

The concealment appears related to embarrassment and anticipated judgment, not an attempt to gain material advantage.

The accountability relationship may unintentionally be signaling that successful reporting is valued more than accurate reporting.

8. RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

“I would rather have an accurate miss than an inaccurate success. If the reporting process makes you feel that you need to protect my opinion of you, it stops being useful accountability. We still need to address the missed work, but accuracy has to come first.”

INTERACTION 3

Three weeks later:

Simone: Two of three this week.

Simone: I almost wanted to call it three again, but no. It was two.

9. FINAL FORMULATION

Reporting integrity improved once the accountability relationship explicitly prioritized accurate information over successful appearance.

10. WHY THIS CASE MATTERS

Accountability cannot function well without credible self-report.

But the solution is not surveillance.

The Accountabili-Buddy needs the client to understand that a miss is analyzable data; falsified success makes useful analysis impossible.

11. WEAK ACCOUNTABILI-BUDDY RESPONSES

WEAK RESPONSE A

“You lied to me.”

Problem: Factually arguable but frames the interaction as interpersonal betrayal rather than restoring useful reporting.

WEAK RESPONSE B

"I will need proof from now on."

Problem: Converts accountability into surveillance without evidence that this is necessary or desirable.

WEAK RESPONSE C

"It is okay. It does not matter."

Problem: It does matter. Accurate reporting is foundational to the process.

12. RECORD / UPDATE

Goal: Three modules weekly

Reported Result: Three

Actual Result: Two

Reason for Discrepancy: Embarrassment and anticipated judgment

Process Issue: Reporting accuracy compromised

Intervention: Explicitly prioritize accurate reporting

Outcome: Accurate reporting improved

13. SCORING CRITERIA

Full-credit responses should:

- treat inaccurate reporting as important;
- avoid moral escalation;
- investigate why reporting became distorted;
- resist surveillance as the default solution;
- establish accuracy as more important than appearance.