Self-Blame and Responsibility - Session activity

Facilitate a structured practice of self-blame and responsibility with preparation, reflection, and an agreed closing.

Mental health professionals | 30 minutes

Fictional example: Lee wonders whether being busy caused Quinn's deception.

0-5 min | Agree on purpose and fit

Explain the educational scope. Ask what would be useful, check readiness and access needs, and establish choices to observe, adapt, or pass. Use an ordinary example; do not solicit trauma narratives.

5-10 min | Orient with an example

Responsibility for deceptive choices should not be shifted to the hurt partner. Fictional example: Lee wonders whether being busy caused Quinn's deception. Ask what is observed and what remains uncertain.

10-20 min | Practice and compare

Separate relationship difficulties from the choices involved in breaking an agreement and note what remains uncertain. Offer quiet individual work, a supported conversation, or an observing role. Compare two possible responses without evaluating people as right or wrong.

20-25 min | Reflect on meaning

What responsibility belongs to each person without assigning blame for another's choices? Ask what fit, what did not fit, and how culture, power, disability access, or external conditions affect the options.

25-30 min | Integrate and close

Invite one optional next step or support request. Orient to the current setting, allow an unfinished question to remain unfinished, and agree how to revisit it. End early or adapt if activation increases.

Adaptations

For a group, use fiction and no compulsory round-robin disclosure. For remote use, allow off-camera reflection and private notes. For brief use, keep one example and one question while retaining opening and closing choices.

Reflection

What adaptation or follow-up is needed?

Scope and adaptation

Joint work requires private assessment of coercion, violence, fear, and retaliation. Do not require graphic disclosure, passwords, surveillance, reconciliation, forgiveness, or sexual contact. Accountability for deception is not assigned to the hurt partner. Support individual agency and appropriate medical, legal, or safety consultation without using this worksheet as professional advice.

Original AI-assisted educational draft; independent clinical review pending. Version 1.0. Background: Integrative Model of Affair Recovery. Full source links and scope: library.morethantherapy.org/recovery/resources/INF-A14-4