

THE IMPACT OF HEARING ABOUT TRAUMA ON EXPERIENCED SOCIAL  
WORK CLINICIANS by *Russell B. McCloud, 2011*

A qualitative research study of five master's-level social worker clinicians (heretofore most of the research has been quantitative and not exclusively focused on Master's level social workers), who are not first responders or trauma specialists, with from 25 to 40 years of experience focused on understanding the phenomenon of the impact on them of listening to clients' trauma both I the moment and over time. Burnout, post-traumatic stress disorder, compassion fatigue, secondary traumatic stress, and vicarious traumatization are discussed. All participants experienced lasting impact from clients' presentations of traumatic materials and the milieu in which the participants practice influenced this impact. Participants found various and individual ways of coping with both the impact and the milieu. The lasting impact of the participants in this study was often intense but not necessarily negative as participants found significantly compassion satisfaction through their therapeutic endeavors with resilient people. Concepts from attachment theory help frame an understanding of the findings. The importance of support of licensed social work clinicians through supervision is raised.