

NASW CODE OF ETHICS PAPER

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The purpose of the NASW Code of Ethics is to show its basic values, principles, and ethical standards to guide how social workers' conduct themselves. This code should be followed by all social workers and students. There are six core values to the NASW Code of Ethics and out of those six, three stood out to me the most. These three include: service, dignity and worth of a person, and importance of human relationships. Service has a primary goal to help people and help them address their social problem or problems. Social workers tend to put service before their own self-interest, which requires being selfless. Practitioners and workers are expected to volunteer with not expecting anything in return for their own benefit. They work hard to help people in service and put others above themselves. I demonstrate service daily by doing favors for my friends and always thinking of them besides myself. I find myself helping them with their own situations before I even have time to talk about my own. I do not mind and that is what I am here for, to help. I feel empowered by being able to make a difference and serve. Now when it comes to dignity and worth of a person it requires a lot of respect. As a social work, you have to respect everyone's' dignity and worth of a person and treat them with a caring attitude. Each individual is special and has a lot of things going on in their own lives. You have to be mindful of individual differences and cultural diversity. Social workers enhance a clients chance to change and offers them options to satisfy their own needs. They resolve conflicts between clients and the outside society. As a regular person living in this evil world I have to stay true to myself and show respect for everyone. Growing up my family did not have it easy and I understand how it feels like to be in situations that are not suitable or well. Every day I live a life of respect to others and manage to care for others by giving them my own time to help, listen, and take action. Lastly, it is important to know the importance of human relationships. Social workers understand and recognize the importance of having human relationships. Some of

these relationships affect whether the situation can change or influence changes in individuals.

As a social worker, you want to strengthen relationships between people in a purposeful way that shows and enhances the well-being of an individual. I value human relationships. I am a living testimony that relationships between humans is very important. Whether they are there to help you or to help you learn, it is all part of life and a learning process. I demonstrate and emphasize on the importance of these relationships every day. My friends know how much I value them and how it would hurt to ever lose one of them. In the future, I plan to keep showing these values in my everyday living. I want to go out of my comfort zone and not only help people around my area but around the world as well. My goal for this semester is to go out to Chattanooga and volunteer and help those in need in whatever way it may be.

The three ethical standards that I will discuss include: confidentiality, cultural competence, and respect. Confidentiality is important to establish. Social workers are suppose to respect confidential information given and not make any exceptions to it. They are not to give out any information to anyone else. You may only disclose confidential information when there is appropriate valid consent from the client. For example, if a client comes in and talks to you about their problem, you are not to share that with anyone. However, you do warn the client that if it is something to harm you or someone the social worker may have to report it to then supervisor. Cultural competence is also very important. Cultural competence should be understood and recognized. There are different strengths that exist in all cultures. Social workers are responsible to have a knowledge base on their clients' culture and ethnicity to be able to show that they are competent to provide services to them. Social workers should also be educated in this to be able to understand social diversity and its importance. For example, if a client comes to you for help in finding a job and build a stable life and the client is an immigrant,

What would you do? You have to be equipped with the right resources and have knowledge on what culture he comes from. Many times some cultures find certain things disrespectful and other cultures do not. It is important to have that knowledge in order to not offend the client. Lastly, we have respect. Respect is important between colleagues clients and agencies. Social workers need to avoid negative criticism of colleagues. Unwarranted negative criticism are things that may demean the person as in race, ethnicity, color, sex, and sexual orientation. Social workers together need to cooperate in a respectful manner. For example, if a co-worker makes a racist comment, your response should not be a demeaning one as well. You need to handle it with respect although your colleague had not and the supervisor is left to deal with the issue.

Diversity plays a major role in human relationships. Diversity is defined as a range of different things. In order to be able to adapt and understand, we have to have the knowledge of different cultures and people. As I had stated before, cultural competence is very important and plays a huge part with diversity. It also ties in respect for ones culture once you have a knowledge of what is going on.

In the Bible, Jesus demonstrates all six NASW core values. Throughout the Bible there are so many times Jesus showed these values. In Philippians 2:4 and 1 John 3:178-18 God tells us to care about other human beings. Jesus also states to love your neighbor as yourself in Mark 12:31. God is a loving God and he says to love with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. The Bible tells us a lot to care and love one another and others. The Bible is a foundation where we build our understanding of the purpose for caring for one another. Another part in the bible is the role of a shepherd and show how much caring is important. The Bible illustrated Jesus as “the Good Shepherd” in John 10:1-20. Social work is often looked upon as a helping and caring career. The overall figure of a shepherd and caring attitude incorporates all the six values of the

NASW code of ethics.

I believe that my own personal background mostly aligns with the NASW code of ethics. In my experience, I have had to work and deal with patients, clients, and or customers where I had to apply the code of ethics. Family was always a big conflict with the code of ethics for me. Although I also wanted to share my experiences with them I could not. It was to be kept confidential and professional. When I was working with patients I could not take pictures or post anything with the companies named to ensure confidentiality and respect for that company. Not being able to share my daily experiences made it frustrating, to me as a person. I am naturally a very social person and I love to share my experiences, but these instances hindered me from doing so. For example, when I was in the hospital reviewing the health history of a patient I found interesting factors that contribute to her situation, and I wanted to ask and share but I couldn't. This all fell under confidentiality. Overall, my daily life is a learning experience and I keep learning new things every day. I plan to keep living this life and maintaining a professional appearance.