

Eviction Prevention Project: Social Work Processes

Steps for Addressing Ethical Issues and Dilemmas

E – Evaluate relevant personal, societal, agency, client, and professional values

-Determine if there is an ethical issue and/or dilemma and which area of practice it concerns. Is it a conflict of values, rights, or professional responsibilities?

T – Think about what ethical standard of the NASW Code of Ethics applies, as well as relevant laws and case decisions

-Identify the key values and principles of the social work profession involved.

H – Hypothesize about possible consequences of different decisions

- Utilize the guiding principle of person-in-environment and the core value of competency to determine potential outcomes and consequences

I - Identify who will benefit and who will be harmed in view of social work's commitment to the most vulnerable.

-Consider the commitment to the welfare of the client and the individual client's presenting needs and concerns to justify prioritizing one competing value/principle over another.

C – Consult with supervisor and colleagues about the most ethical choice.

- Develop an action plan that is consistent with the ethical priorities that have been determined as central to the dilemma. Document and reflect on the outcome.