

Ethical Dilemma Assignment

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School Social Work: Emphasis Foundation SOCW-678

February 23, 2020

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The NASW Code of Ethics for School Social Workers and the Supplemental Ethical Standards for School Social Workers have many common fundamentals. Both references are utilized as guidelines in upholding principles, values, and addresses how to generally navigate complex issues with children and families related in the school setting. In addition, both references emphasize the usage of evidenced-based practices for planning or treatment. Another major important comparison between the two is how they explain how a school social worker should base their decision making in practice.

In agreement with the Code of Ethics for Social Work, my personal values are service, competence, dignity, human relationships, and social justice. As a follower of Christ, I believe I should serve others by helping them meet their personal needs. In order to assist others, I must be competent in learning information about an individual and how best to reach their goal. I take delight in interacting with people and hearing their stories. I seek to decrease oppression by providing social justice in any situation.

The school setting I am most interested in practicing is in Early Childhood Education or a Head Start program. The following interest would be elementary. At the elementary level, abuse, lack of implementing special education, and parent participation would be the main issues. Abuse is highly revealed in this setting due to the vulnerability and children's development in each stage. In this age group, many students are lacking the proper education according to their individual learning style and level of comprehension.

The three definitions from the Supplemental Ethical Standards that are related in the elementary setting are parents, minors, and confidentiality. Parents or guardians are the main individuals for minors. They are mainly responsible for following with referrals or recommendations. If a child is misbehaving or there is a concern for him or her, depending on the level of development, communication with the child is equally important.

In order to respond to the ethical dilemma for number two, I would refer to the Supplemental Ethical Standards for School Social Workers guidelines and NASW Code of Ethics for School Social Workers. In the SESSS it lists the seven steps for ethical decision making. The seven steps are to know yourself and your professional responsibilities, analyze the predicament, seek consultation, identify courses of action, manage clinical concerns, implement the decision, and reflect on the process (School Social Work Midwest Council, 2014). I would follow each step accordingly. I would consult with a supervisor. If I have a release of information with the court system, I would inform them. According to the Code of Ethics it states, “ School social workers shall...comply with local, state, and federal mandates related to informed consent, privacy and confidentiality, and access to records within the context of legal and ethical rights of minors and parents” (Anatas & Clark, 2012). In addition, I would also inform the parent for being honest with me and letting her know for safety of the child and herself I will have to report it.

References

Anatas, J., & Clark, E. (2012). NASW Standards for School Social Work Services. Retrieved from

<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1Ze4-9-Os7E%3D&portalid=0>

School Social Work Midwest Council. (2014). Supplemental Ethical Standards for School Social Work Practice. Retrieved from

<http://www.msswa.org/Resources/Documents/Supplemental-SSW-Ethical-Standards-final-10-14.pdf>