

An Introduction to Ethics in Child Welfare Supervision

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Focus of the Module

- Understanding the key ethical issues in the area of supervision in child welfare.
- Being able to use an ethical rules screen in making decisions in ethical dilemmas when supervising in the child welfare domain.

Overview

- Difference Between Values and Ethics
- NASW Code of Ethics
- Code of Ethics and Supervision
- Key Supervisory Ethics Issues
- Child Welfare Ethics
- Ethical Dilemmas
- Ethical Rules Screen

Difference Between Values and Ethics

Values

- Beliefs and attitudes about the world by individuals or groups

Ethics

- Govern conduct
- Often based on values

Personal Values

- Values held by individuals
- Values are strongly influenced by culture, religion, national origin, and other variables

Examples

Family	Community	Confidence
Honor	Marriage	Generosity
Faith	Individualism	Peace
Security	Hard Work	Humility
Freedom	Joy	Adventure
Religion	Intellectualism	Service

Professional Values

- agreed upon by a professional organization or association

E.g. Physicians adhere to a value “to do no harm”

Ethics

- Ethics govern the conduct of people or professions
- Professional ethics govern the behaviors of a profession
- Philosophers distinguish between two types of ethics

Deontological (Means matter)

Focus on ethics related to how a child welfare worker interacted with a family: respectful, valued family's desires, etc.

Teleological (Ends matter)

Focus on results/outcome s of a child welfare worker's interactions with a family

NASW Code of Ethics

- Sets forth the values, principles, and standards to guide social workers' conduct.
- Does not provide a set of rules how a social worker should act in All situations.
- Specific applications of the *Code* must take into account the context in which it is being considered and the possibility of conflicts among the *Code's* values, principles, and standards.

The *NASW Code of Ethics* Serves 6 Purposes:

1. Identifies core values on which social work's mission is based.
2. Summarizes broad ethical principles that reflect the profession's core values and establishes a set of specific ethical standards that should be used to guide social work practice.
3. Helps social workers identify relevant considerations when professional obligations conflict or ethical uncertainties arise.
4. Provides ethical standards to which the general public can hold the social work profession accountable.
5. Socializes practitioners new to the field to social work's mission, values, ethical principles, and ethical standards.
6. Articulates standards that the social work profession itself can use to assess whether social workers have engaged in unethical conduct.

Social Work Values & Ethical Principles

Value – beliefs and attitudes professional social worker have

Ethical Principle – are prescriptions how professional social worker should conduct their work.

1. Service



Social workers' primary goal is to help people in need and to address social problems.

2. Social justice



Social workers challenge social injustice.

3. Dignity and worth of the person



Social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person.

Social Work Values & Ethical Principles

Value:

Ethical Principle:

- | | | |
|---|-------|---|
| 4. Importance of human relationships | ————— | <i>Social workers recognize the central importance of human relationships.</i> |
| 5. Integrity | ————— | <i>Social workers behave in a trustworthy manner.</i> |
| 6. Competence | ————— | <i>Social workers practice within their areas of competence and develop and enhance their professional expertise.</i> |

Please continue working on the module content by watching the following presentation:

[Ethical Issues Specific to Supervision and Child Welfare](#)

For more content or to access other modules, please go to:

<http://pebbles.cehd.umn.edu/ssw/CASCW/Modules/Ethics-Supervision/Ethics-Supv.htm>

Thank you!