

Mindful Continuing Education

Ethics for Licensed Clinical Social Workers

Introduction

1. Ethical codes were developed to guide the conduct of LCSWs, and although they cannot guarantee ethical behavior or resolve all ethical issues, codes must set forth values, ethical principles, and ethical standards to which professionals aspire and by which their actions can be judged.

- A. True
 - B. False
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2. The most recent period in the history of social work ethics reflects growth and understanding, outlines expected conduct, and identifies ethical obligations to clients, the profession, colleagues, professional organizations, and society, and is known as:

- A. The Morality and Values Period
 - B. The Ethical and Decision-Making Period
 - C. The Social Change and Competence Model
 - D. The Ethical Standards and Risk Management Period
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3. According to the New York State Society for Clinical Social Work Code of Ethics, the professional practice of clinical social workers is shaped by ethical principles which are rooted in the basic values of the social work profession, including each of the following EXCEPT:

- A. A commitment to the dignity, well-being, and self-determination of the individual
 - B. A commitment to evaluating and resolving ethical dilemmas based on moral philosophy, principles, concepts, and theory
 - C. A commitment to professional practice characterized by competence and integrity
 - D. A commitment to a society which offers opportunities to all its members in a just and non-discriminatory manner
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Dual Relationships

4. In instances where dual or multiple relationships are unavoidable, social workers should empower their clients by enabling the clients to be responsible for setting clear

and appropriate boundaries in the relationship.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Privacy and Confidentiality

5. According to ethical codes and standards, the general expectation that social workers will keep information confidential does not apply when disclosure is necessary to prevent serious, _____, and imminent harm to a client or other identifiable person.

- A. Foreseeable
 - B. Implicit
 - C. Measurable
 - D. Significant
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Confidentiality with Minor Clients

6. When LCSWs work with minor clients and fear there is a serious potential for self-harm, they may need to make an exception to their responsibility to confidentiality if they believe there is an overriding professional reason to do so.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Competence and Integrity of the Profession

7. The NASW code outlines responsibilities in the areas of competence and integrity of the profession, including each of the following principles EXCEPT:

- A. When generally recognized standards do not exist with respect to an emerging area of practice, social workers should exercise careful judgment and take responsible steps to ensure the competence of their work and to protect clients from harm
 - B. Social workers pursue professional development through self-supervision, collegial consultation, professional reading, and continuing educational activities
 - C. Social workers should accept responsibility or employment only on the basis of existing competence or the intention to acquire the necessary competence
 - D. Social workers should base practice on recognized knowledge, including empirically based knowledge, relevant to social work and social work ethic
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Impairment of Colleagues

8. If clinical social workers have direct knowledge of a colleague's impairment that is due to personal problems, psychosocial distress, substance abuse, or mental health difficulties and that interferes with practice effectiveness, they must immediately take action by consulting with their licensing and regulatory bodies or other professional organization to determine the best way to approach the situation.

- A. True**
 - B. False**
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Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities in Practice Settings

9. When LCSWs serve as supervisors to other professionals or students, they are expected to maintain the same standard of professionalism that they exhibit as clinicians, which includes a responsibility to monitor worker issues that may affect practice with clients.

- A. True**
 - B. False**
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Evaluation and Research

10. Ethical codes call for carefully considering possible consequences and following guidelines developed for the protection of evaluation and research participants, as well as informing participants of:

- A. Confidentiality and privacy issues**
 - B. Research processes and proceedings**
 - C. Any conflicts that may occur as a result of the research findings**
 - D. Their right to withdraw from evaluation and research anytime without penalty**
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Social and Political Action

11. Social workers have an obligation to their communities and to society as a whole to promote social justice and public welfare, and to maintain ethical and legal expectations, and as a result, they do not participate in any activities that promote discrimination or inequality, or that may reduce public trust in the profession.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Cultural Competence and Social Diversity

12. Culturally competent social workers are responsible for understanding culture and its function in human behavior and society and for recognizing:

- A. The need to contribute to the promotion of diversity**
 - B. Cultural humility in clinical practice**
 - C. The strengths that exist in all cultures**
 - D. The varying cultural and community norms that exist within the clinical population**
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