

# Ethical Standards and Principles Trauma Informed Care

## Social Workers: NASW Code of Ethics

*Ethical Principle: A social worker's primary goal is to help people in need and address social problems.*

Social workers elevate service to others above their own self-interests. Social workers are instrumental in helping clients who have experienced trauma and ensure the resources needed are available to them.

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*Ethical Principle: Social workers challenge social justice.*

Social workers can challenge social injustices that survivors of traumatic events endure on a daily basis. Some examples would be educating other professionals on the stigma and biases that often times become a barrier to survivors getting the help they need and avoid re-traumatization.

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*Ethical Principle: Social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of a person.*

Social workers treat each person with care and respect, and are mindful of individual difference, culture, and ethnicity. Social workers promote the clients self-determination and advocate to enhance the clients opportunity to grow. Social workers advocate and find resources to meet the immediate and long term needs of the client.

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*Ethical Principle: Social workers recognize the central importance of human relationships.*

Social workers understand that relationships between and among people are an important vehicle for change. Social workers engage people as partners in the helping process. Social workers seek to strengthen relationships among people in a purposeful effort to promote, restore, maintain, and enhance the well-being of individuals, families, social groups, organizations, and communities.

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## Counselors: ACA Code of Ethics

### *Ethical Principle: Avoiding Harm and Imposing Values*

Counselors act to avoid imposing further harm to clients and work to minimize or remedy unavoidable harm. Counselors also make sure to avoid imposing their own personal values onto the client. Counselors respect the diversity of clients and seek training in areas where they are at risk of imposing their own values onto the client, especially when those values conflict with those of the clients they work with.

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### *Ethical Standard: Advocacy*

When appropriate, counselors advocate at individual, group, institutional, and societal levels to address potential barriers and obstacles that inhibit access and/or the growth and development of clients. Counselors obtain client consent prior to engaging in advocacy efforts on behalf of an identifiable client to improve the provision of services and to work toward removal of systemic barriers or obstacles that inhibit client access, growth, and development.

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### *Ethical Standard: Social Justice*

Counselors are responsible for the promotion of equity for all people and groups for the purpose of ending oppression and injustice affecting clients, students, counselors, families, communities, schools, workplaces, governments, and other social and institutional systems.

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### *Ethical Standard: Client Welfare*

The primary responsibility of counselors is to respect the dignity and promote the welfare of clients.



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## Case Managers: Code of Ethics

### *Ethical Principle: Advocacy*

Board-Certified Case Managers (CCMs) will serve as advocates for their clients and perform a comprehensive assessment to identify the client's needs; they will identify options and provide choices, when available and appropriate.

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### *Ethical Standard: Nonmaleficence*

Nonmaleficence means "to do no harm", understanding how implicit biases can impact the client relationship and is imperative to do no harm. Reflecting on one's own implicit bias is one way to ensure that a case manager is not doing harm through unintentional acts. Case Managers will remain objective when working with clients, and will not impose their own values onto the client.

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### *Ethical Standard: Duty of Beneficence and Duty of Justice*

Duty of beneficence states that case managers will take active steps to promote and benefit the welfare of the client, the client's support system and when appropriate others. Duty of Justice states that case managers will treat the client and the client's family fairly and without malice, bias, or prejudice.

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## Nurses: ANA Code of Ethics

*Ethical Principle: Respect for Human Dignity*

A fundamental principle that underlies all nursing practice is respect for the inherent worth, dignity, and human rights of every individual. Nurses take into account the needs and values of all persons in all professional relationships.

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*Ethical Principle: Social reform*

Nurses can work individually as citizens or collectively through political action to bring about social change. It is the responsibility of a professional nursing association to speak for nurses collectively in shaping and reshaping health care within our nation, specifically in areas of health care policy and legislation that affect accessibility, quality, and the cost of health care. Here, the professional association maintains vigilance and takes action to influence legislators, reimbursement agencies, nursing organizations, and other health professions. In these activities, health is understood as being broader than delivery and reimbursement systems, but extending to health-related sociocultural issues such as violation of human rights, homelessness, hunger, violence, and the stigma of illness.

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*Ethical Principle: The nurse promotes, advocates for, and strives to protect the health, safety, and rights of the patient.*

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*Ethical Principle: The right to self-determination*

Respect for human dignity requires the recognition of specific patient rights, particularly, the right of self-determination. Self-determination, also known as autonomy, is the philosophical basis for informed consent in health care. Patients have the moral and legal right to determine what will be done with their own person; to be given accurate, complete, and understandable information in a manner that facilitates an informed judgment; to be assisted with weighing the benefits, burdens, and available options in their treatment, including the choice of no treatment; to accept, refuse, or terminate treatment without deceit, undue influence, duress, coercion, or penalty; and to be given necessary support throughout the decision-making and treatment process.

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