

ANNEX: CODE OF ETHICS

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world; it strives to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, create and maintain professional standards and advance sound social policies.

The *NASW Code of Ethics* is intended to serve as a guide to the everyday professional conduct of social workers. This *Code* includes four sections. The first Section, "Preamble" summarizes the social work profession's mission and core values. The second one, "Purpose of the *NASW Code of Ethics*," provides an overview of the *Code's* main functions and a brief guide is dealing with ethical issues or dilemmas in social work practice. The third section, "Ethical Principles" presents broad ethical principles based on the core values of social work that provide information on social work practice. The final section "Ethical Standards" includes specific ethical standards to guide social workers' conduct and provides a basis for adjudication.

In this book you'll find only a short paragraph concerning standards related to social workers' ethical responsibilities to clients – extracted from the whole code. It can be downloaded from the NASW webpage.

Ethical Standards

The following ethical standards are relevant to the professional activities of social workers. They concern (1) social workers' ethical responsibilities to clients, (2) social workers' ethical responsibilities to colleagues, (3) social workers' ethical responsibilities in practice, (4) social workers' ethical responsibilities as professionals, (5) social workers' ethical responsibilities to the social work profession, and (6) social workers' ethical responsibilities to the broader society.

Some of these standards are enforceable guidelines for the professional conduct and some constitute aspirations. The enforceability of the standards is a matter of professional judgment that falls under the jurisdiction of those responsible for reviewing the alleged violations of the ethical standards. Here you find the main chapters only. More information is available at the NASW website: www.socialworkers.org

Social workers' ethical responsibilities to clients

- *Commitment to Clients*
- *Self-Determination*
- *Informed Consent*
- *Competence*
- *Cultural Competence and Social Diversity*
- *Conflicts of Interest*
- *Privacy and Confidentiality*
- *Access to Records*
- *Sexual Relationships*
- *Physical Contact*
- *Sexual Harassment*
- *Derogatory Language*
- *Payment for Services*
- *Clients Lacking Decision-Making Capacity*
- *Interruption of Services*
- *Termination of Services*