



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS CODE OF ETHICS



The general approach in this code of ethics (course of conduct) is based on the belief that every human being has a unique value and potential, irrespective of origin, ethnicity, sex, age, beliefs, socio-economic and legal status. The social service practitioner has a responsibility to devote his/her professional knowledge and skills scientifically for the benefit of each individual, group, community and mankind.

The social service practitioner has a primary obligation to render a quality service professionally in a professional and ethically correct manner.

The social worker shall recognise and take into account his/her personal and professional limitations, and not let such limitations impact on a principled service.

CONDUCT THAT CONCERNS THE SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS SHALL MEAN, INTER ALIA, FOR A PRACTITIONER TO:

- (a) Scientifically evaluate and support the profession in order to enhance and raise the dignity and integrity of the profession.
- (b) Challenge unacceptable practices and uphold those that are acceptable; -protect the profession from unfounded criticism which could bring it into disrepute;
- (c) remain actively involved with the formulation, development, determination and implementation of professional policy.

CONDUCT THAT CONCERNS A CLIENT SHALL MEAN, INTER ALIA, FOR A SOCIAL SERVICE PRACTITIONER TO:

- (a) Recognise the uniqueness of each client;
- (b) Maintain a professional relationship with the client;
- (c) Acknowledge the right to self-determination of the client;
- (d) Take into account the client's rights, preferences and objectives when structuring service-rendering, even in the absence of the client; strive towards the client's optimal use of his/her abilities;
- (g) Respect the client's right to decide whether or not to co-operate with the social service practitioner and maintain the client's right to confidentiality;
- (i) Not refuse service-rendering to a client irrespective of whether or not the client is in a position to pay the fees for such services; inform the client of and prepare him/her of any decision regarding the termination of service-rendering.

CONDUCT THAT CONCERNS A COLLEAGUE OR ANOTHER PROFESSIONAL PERSON SHALL MEAN, INTER ALIA, FOR A SOCIAL SERVICE PRACTITIONER TO:

- (a) Respect and honour the training and service-rendering of colleagues and other professional persons;
- (b) Respect the trust that exists between colleagues;
- (c) Resolve criticism of and differences between colleagues in terms of the authority structure of the employer(s);
- (d) Protect and defend colleagues against unfair criticism;
- (e) Promote opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and experience between colleagues and other professional persons.

CONDUCT THAT CONCERNS AN EMPLOYER SHALL MEAN, INTER ALIA FOR A SOCIAL SERVICE PRACTITIONER TO:

- (a) Acknowledge and honour his/her employer's authority as far as it is compatible with this course of conduct.

CONDUCT THAT CONCERNS A SOCIAL SERVICE INSTITUTION SHALL MEAN, INTER ALIA, FOR A SOCIAL SERVICE PRACTITIONER TO:

Co-operate with those social work institutions whose policies, procedures and operations are directed towards adequate service-rendering and encouragement of professional practices consistent with this course of conduct.

CONDUCT THAT CONCERNS THE COMMUNITY SHALL MEAN, INTER ALIA, FOR A SOCIAL SERVICE PRACTITIONER TO:

Enhance and promote service-rendering to the community under all circumstances by utilising and developing resources in the community; have the responsibility to be aware of, initiate, develop and change social policy consistent with professional practices.