

PDH Academy

PO Box 449
Pewaukee, WI 53072
888-564-9098
pdhacademy@gmail.com

Ethics for Social Work Practice

Course Abstract

The field of social work is founded on a core set of unique beliefs and values shaped by history and culture. As the profession has grown there is greater understanding of the complexity of social work practice and the need for better articulation of its purpose, scope and ethical guidelines. This course reviews the history of social work ethics, several related ethical codes of conduct and the relationship between professional ethics and the law. Included, is a thorough review of the NASW Code of Ethics with relevant examples highlighting the standards in everyday practice. The content of this course would be a good review for practitioners and an appropriate course for beginning practitioners.



"This program is Approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval # 886745725-1238) for 4 continuing education contact hours."

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the similarities and differences between law and professional ethics as it relates to social work practice.
2. Identify the core values and ethical principles outlined in the NASW Code of Ethics.
3. Summarize ethical standards and responsibilities to clients
4. Recognize common practice situations that require consideration of ethical guidelines for social work.

Timed Agenda/Outline

- | | | |
|------|---|---------|
| I. | Introduction (5 min) | 20 min |
| | A. Distinguishing between laws and professional ethics (5 min) | |
| | B. History of Ethics in the Social Work Profession (5 min) | |
| | C. Professional Standards and Ethical Codes for Social Work Professionals (5 min) | |
| II. | NASW Code of Ethics | 10 min |
| | A. Core Values and Ethical Principles (10 min) | |
| III. | Ethical Standards of Responsibility to Clients (5 min) | 105 min |
| | A. Commitment to Clients (5 min) | |
| | B. Self-Determination of Clients (5 min) | |
| | C. Informed Consent and Protection of Clients Unable to Consent (5 min) | |
| | D. Competence (5 min) | |
| | E. Cultural Competency and Social Responsibility (10 min) | |
| | F. Confidentiality, Privacy and Access to Records (20 min) | |
| | 1. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 | |
| | 2. HITECH Act | |
| | 3. Confidentiality of Substance Abuse Patient Records | |

4.	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974	
5.	Military-Related Confidentiality Law	
6.	Access to Records	
G.	Professional Boundaries, Dual Relationships and Conflicts of Interest (25 min)	
1.	Sexual Relationships (5 min)	
2.	Physical Contact (5 min)	
3.	Sexual Harassment and Derogatory Language (5 min)	
H.	Additional Business Practices	
1.	Payment of Services (5 min)	
2.	Continuity of Services (5 min)	
IV.	An Overview of Professional Standards of Social Work Practice (5 min)	100 min
A.	Ethical Responsibilities to Colleagues (25 min)	
B.	Ethical Responsibilities in Practice Settings (25 min)	
C.	Ethical Responsibilities as Professionals (25 min)	
D.	Ethical Responsibilities to the Social Work Professional (10 min)	
E.	Ethical Responsibilities to the Broader Society (10 min)	
V.	Summary (5 min)	5 min
Total Time		240 min

Delivery Method

Correspondence/internet self-study course, including a provider-graded final exam. To earn continuing education credit for this course, you must achieve a passing score of 80% on the final exam.

Course Author Biography

Ms. Ledford is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Board Certified Behavior Analyst with over 30 years' experience managing child and adult mental health, residential treatment, child welfare programs. In addition to extensive experience in social services, she has worked as both a Trainer and Project Manager for Prosync, Inc. (now The Paxen Group), a nationally recognized leader in customized training and performance contracting. Currently Director of Behavioral Health Quality for Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS) she leads statewide quality improvement activities for behavioral health programs, trauma-informed practice development and statewide trauma training initiatives. She also serves as the Statewide Trainer for CHS' Category III Trauma Recovery Initiatives (TRI) grant project.

René is a graduate of the Florida State University Harris Institute Infant Mental Health program and is trained in trauma-informed interventions including Child Parent Psychotherapy, TF-CBT and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy. She has developed and/or presented numerous continuing education programs and among other trauma-informed curricula, is an Experienced Trainer of NCTSN's Child Welfare Trauma Training Toolkit (CWTTT). René was also a contributor for the revised CWTTT and Trauma-Informed PS-MAPP curricula. Additionally René is a Council on Accreditation (COA) Peer Reviewer and the 2015 Past-President and 2016 Director of Social Media for the Association for Talent Development, Central Florida Chapter.

