

Ethical Dilemmas

Ethics

- Ethics are core values and beliefs that guide individuals.
- Ethical behavior is how we operationalize those ethics. It is turning them into observable behavior.
- As social workers, we have a responsibility to our clients, colleagues, workplace, community and society as a whole.
- As social workers, we value and promote social justice and change with and on behalf of clients.
- As social workers, we are sensitive to cultural and ethical diversity.
- As social workers, we seek to enhance the capacity of our clients.
- As social workers, we frequently have competing values linked to our moral code.

Ethical dilemmas:

1) Doctor diagnosing children with mental health diagnosis in order to help them get Social Security Disability (SSD) so child and family can eat; child welfare professional aware of situation.

2) Psychiatrist not prescribing most effective medication for a child's mental health condition because the mother has a drug habit and will sell the medication on the street; child welfare professionals aware.

3) Father of 9 children living with and in a committed relationship with the mother; mother receiving general and medical assistance, based on the fact that the father's whereabouts are "unknown"; child welfare professional is aware.

Group response:
