



Worksheet 5e.A3

Competency: Integrity/Honesty— Living by the Code: NASW Code of Ethics

The NASW's Code of Ethics, approved by the 1996 NASW Delegate Assembly and revised by the 2008 NASW Delegate Assembly, expresses the core values that drive the social work profession:

- Service;
- Social justice;
- Dignity and worth of the person;
- Importance of human relationships;
- Integrity; and
- Competence.

These values then translate into ethical principles that inform the conduct of the social work field as a whole.

The *NASW Code of Ethics* serves six purposes:

1. The Code identifies core values on which social work's mission is based.
2. The Code summarizes broad ethical principles that reflect the profession's core values and establishes a set of specific ethical standards to guide social work practice.
3. The Code helps social workers identify relevant considerations when professional obligations conflict or ethical uncertainties arise.
4. The Code provides ethical standards to which the general public can hold the social work profession accountable.
5. The Code socializes practitioners new to the field on social work's mission, values, ethical principles, and ethical standards.
6. The Code articulates standards that the social work profession itself can use to assess whether social workers have engaged in unethical conduct.

Reference

Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers. Retrieved July 15, 2011, from <http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp>

