

APPENDIX # 10 Protection of the Public

Introduction

Social workers have the obligation to protect the public and must work identify and explain their education, training, experience, professional affiliation, professional registration and nature of service in an honest and accurate manner. Social workers should also work to ensure their own wellness for practice to ensure that they are taking care of themselves in order protect the public

Relevant Code of Ethics.

Value 4: Integrity of Professional Practice

Social workers demonstrate respect for the profession's purpose, values and ethical principles relevant to their field of practice. Social workers maintain a high level of professional conduct by acting honestly and responsibly and promoting the values of the profession. Social workers strive for impartiality in their professional practice, and refrain from imposing their personal values, views, preferences, stereotypes/assumptions on clients and seek to understand the lived experiences of those whom they serve. It is the responsibility of social workers to establish the tenor of their professional relationship with clients, and others to whom they have a professional duty, and to maintain professional boundaries. As individuals, social workers take care in their actions to not bring the reputation of the profession into disrepute. An essential element of integrity in professional practice is ethical accountability based on the CASW Code of Ethics, as amended for NSASW (1994), the CASW Code of Ethics (2005), the IFSW Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles (2004), and other relevant provincial standards and guidelines. Where conflicts or uncertainties exist with respect to these resources of ethical guidance or with respect to the interpretation or application, social workers are encouraged to seek advice, including consultation with their regulatory body.

Value 6: Competence in Professional Practice

Social workers respect a client's right to competent social work services. Social workers analyze the nature of social needs and problems, and encourage innovative, effective strategies and techniques to meet both new and existing needs and, where possible, contribute to the knowledge base of the profession. Social workers have a responsibility to maintain professional proficiency, to continually strive to increase their professional knowledge and skills, and to apply new knowledge in practice commensurate with their level of professional education, skill and competency, seeking consultation and supervision as appropriate.

Concepts Related to Standard

- Identify the concept of professionalism as it applies to social work and the relationship with society.

- Formulate a clear understanding of the role and purpose of social work.
- Describe how you distinguish actions and statements made as private citizen and action and statements as a social worker, and the impact on practice.
- Explore issues related to professional regulation of social work such as ethics standards and professional conduct.
- Examine professional capacity and measure to address it.
- Formulate a personal framework for on-going sustainable self-care.

Activity Examples

1. Read: Chapter #3 Snapshots of Social Work's Ethical History Spencer E; Massing, D & Gough, J (2017): Social Work Ethics; Progressive, Practical, and Relational Approaches; Oxford Press.
 - a. In a discussion with your mentor, explore and reflect on the following questions:
 - What ethical lessons can we learn from our professional history?
 - Who is responsible or even to blame for people's problems? Where does social work locate those problems in its practice with individuals and families, and with the system and with society?
 - Are we finally moving beyond our professions early mission to moralize and to fix People?
 - How can we now move away from social control to relationship-both as our essence and our core method in helping individuals, families, communities and indeed society as a whole?
 - Can we look to becoming equal partners with the people we serve in the journey to understand life and change- even in the face of a managerial regime that often seems to task us to do otherwise? Can we find the courage to stand up for social justice for all?
 - What future do you envision for social work? What will be your place in it?



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2. Read: MacDonald, A; (2017) Chapter #15 The Ethical Professional: Regulation of Social Work in Canada. Spencer E; Massing, D & Gough, J (2017) Social Work Ethics; Progressive, Practical, and Relational Approaches; Oxford Press.

a) Through a discussion with your mentor examine social work principles and values and their relationship to social work regulation and protection the public.

- With your mentor discuss the role that professionalism plays in social work practice? Be sure to consider the roles that education, values, skills and knowledge play.
- How do you as individual, taking into consideration your social location, understand professionalism?
- Focus on exploring your fundamental values, assumptions and beliefs that inform your personal and/or professional perspectives and behaviours around the construct of professionalism?
- What does protection of the public mean to you? What role does professionalism play in protecting the Public?

3. Read: **McGarrigle, T., & Walsh, C. A. (2011). Mindfulness, self-care, and wellness in social work: Effects of contemplative training. Journal of Religion & Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought, 30(3), 212-233.**

a. **Additional Resources:**

[Let's Talk About Burnout, Compassion Fatigue and Vicarious Trauma- youtube](#)

[Drowning in Empathy: The Cost of Vicarious Trauma | Amy Cunningham - youtube](#)

b. **With your mentor reflect on the following questions.**

- What role does self-care play in your ability to balance personal, professional, emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual components in order to live in a balanced, energized manner that assists one in coping with day-to-day stressors?



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Suite 700 1888 Brunswick St
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3J8

Phone: (902) 429 – 7799
Fax: (902) 429 -7650
www.nscsw.org



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- With your self-care regiment is there space for contemplative practices that promote, thinking, questioning, discussing, reflecting, and concentrating on self, all of which are aimed at cultivating a deepened level of awareness and insight?
- How do you currently process moments of stress and do you monitor your behavior for signs of vicarious trauma?
- Is there space for mindfulness practice in your current service area? How might you create more space or welcome your colleagues and peers into that space?

4. *Building a Personal Framework for on-going and sustainable self-care.*

Examine the self-care wheel. Take a long hard look at the Wheel's Six Dimensions and realistically and honestly assess your current situation, where would you like to go, how do you picture your self-care activities and how will you plan to maintain it. (adapted from 6 Dimensions of Vicarious Trauma Free Life <http://www.olgaphoenix.com/wpcontent/themes/olg/pdf/vt%20Starter%20Kit.pdf>)

a. The questions below will help you with this process.

- Examine the wheel closely, then mindfully and non-judgmentally listen to your body and mind, and write down the thoughts that come.
- What are your hopes and goals in regards to your self-care and wellness journey?
- What are your fears about your self-care and wellness journey?
- What do you already know about your life and work habits that require your immediate attention?
- How does your life feel? What seems to be working well? What seems to be challenging?
- Who is your current support group? Who would you like to enlist to become a part of your support group?
- After you identified your support group, it's valuable to reflect on your saboteurs. it could be your inner critic, an unsupportive colleague, your overly packed schedule, or even an unhealthy habit. Here it's important to reflect on the fact that no matter who or what your saboteurs are, you and your support group can tackle them in no time!



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- Looking at the Physical Dimension of your life, what are the activities that work well for you currently? What are the things you would like to do more of? Less of? Any specific activities you would like to try from the Physical Dimension of the Wheel?
- Looking at the Psychological Dimension of your life, what are the activities that work well for you currently? What are the things you would like to do more of? Less of? Any specific activities you would like to try from the Psychological Dimension of the wheel?
- Looking at the Emotional Dimension of your life, what are the activities that work well for you currently? What are the things you would like to do more of? Less of? Any specific activities you would like to try from the Emotional Dimension of the Wheel?
- Looking at the Spiritual Dimension of your life, what are the activities that work well for you currently? What are the things you would like to do more of? Less of? Any specific activities you would like to try from the Spiritual Dimension of the Wheel?
- Looking at the Emotional Dimension of your life, what are the activities that work well for you currently? What are the things you would like to do more of? Less of? Any specific activities you would like to try from the Emotional Dimension of the Wheel?
- Looking at the Personal Dimension of your life, what are the activities that work well for you currently? What are the things you would like to do more of? Less of? Any specific activities you would like to try from the Personal Dimension of the Wheel?
- Looking at the Professional Dimension of your life, what are the activities that work well for you currently? What are the things you would like to do more of? Less of? Any specific activities you would like to try from the Professional Dimension of the Wheel?

b. Fill and complete your own wheel.

- c. With your mentor** imagine yourself once you 've created, tried, and mastered your own, personal, sustainable, and preventative self-care and life balance plan! How do you feel about yourself?

Resources



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Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3J8

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Fax: (902) 429 -7650
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1. [Chapter #3 Snapshots of Social Work's Ethical History: Spencer E; Massing, D & Gough, J \(2017\): Social Work Ethics; Progressive, Practical, and Relational Approaches; Oxford Press.](#)
2. [The Life and Work of Jane Addams](#)
3. [Octavia Hill - a woman of distinction](#)
4. [The #GlobalPOV Project: "Who is Dependent on Welfare"](#)
5. [Chapter #7 The 'WEB': The Multiplicity, Intersectionality, and Heterogeneity of Oppression Multiple Identities and the Persistence of Domination and Oppression. Mullaly, B. \(2010\). Challenging oppression and confronting privilege. Ontario: Oxford University Press.](#)
6. [Kimberlé Crenshawabby Dobson: The Urgency of Intersectionality](#)
7. [Chapter #15 The Ethical Professional: Regulation of Social Work in Canada. Spencer E; Massing, D & Gough, J \(2017\) Social Work Ethics; Progressive, Practical, and Relational Approaches; Oxford Press.](#)
8. [CASW Code of Ethics](#)
9. [NSCSW Standards of Practice](#)
10. [Chapter #12: Relational Ethics and the Third Space. Spencer E; Massing, D & Gough, J \(2017\) Social Work Ethics; Progressive, Practical, and Relational Approaches; Oxford Press.](#)
11. [RSA Animate: Jeremy Rifkin - The Empathic Civilization – YouTube](#)
12. [Brené Brown on Empathy - YouTube](#)
13. [Chapter #5 New Tools for Ethical Practice in an Era of Fiscal Restraints Spencer E; Massing, D & Gough, J \(2017\) Social Work Ethics; Progressive, Practical, and Relational Approaches; Oxford Press.](#)
14. [NSCSW Ethical Decisions Making Tool: <http://nscsw.org/practice/ethical-decision-making-tool/>](#)



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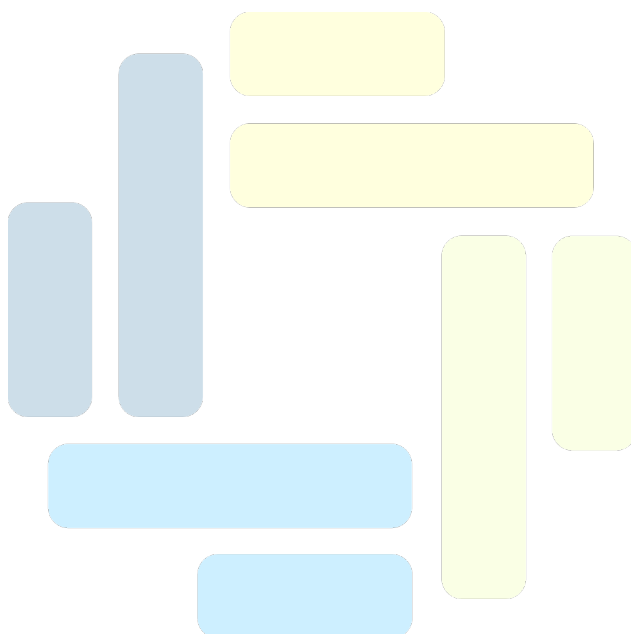
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