

# Code of Ethics for Social Workers

Approved by the Ministry of the Interior on March 28, 1997

On December 15, 2017, by the Social Workers Association of the Republic of China

Revised by the General Assembly of the National Federation, approved by the Ministry of Health and

Welfare on April 26, 108

This Code is formulated in accordance with Article 17 of the Law on Social Workers, formulated by the National Federation of Social Workers Associations, as a practical guide and the basis for handling ethical complaints.

## Chapter I General Provisions

In line with the trend of social work to pursue social fairness and justice, this Code proposes to safeguard the basic human rights of the relatively disadvantaged in society, so that everyone can enjoy living conditions of human dignity, so that all ethnic groups with different cultures can be equally respected, As the highest mission of my country's social work at this stage. In order to achieve the mission of practicing human rights, human dignity, and ethnic equality, we must pay attention to the clarification of the relevant ethical responsibilities of social work professionals and professional organizations, and actively pay attention to the construction of systems related to value practices such as practical research, design, and development. Guided deduction to form ethical standards for professional actions.

### 1. Mission

Social work takes human dignity and value as the core, so that the service objects can enjoy the living conditions of human dignity, so that all ethnic groups with different cultures can be equally respected.

### 2. Applicable object

The code of ethics for social work applies to social workers.

### 3. Core Values

Efforts should be made to prevent service objects from poverty, fear, uneasiness, oppression and injustice, to maintain the basic survival guarantees of service objects, and to enjoy a dignified life.

### 4. Social Work Ethical Principles

4.1. Promote the best well-being of the client.

- 4.2. Practice the disadvantaged first and the best interests of the clients.
- 4.3. Respect the individuality and value of clients.
- 4.4. Understanding cultural context and interpersonal relationships are important drivers of change.
- 4.5. Professional character and attitude with integrity.
- 4.6. Enrich self-professional knowledge and ability.

## 5. Principles for Handling Ethical Conflicts

When social workers face ethical conflicts, they should take the protection of life as the top priority and act on the basis of maintaining human dignity, social fairness and social justice.

- 5.1. The methods adopted are conducive to the pursuit of the interests of the clients.
- 5.2. When there are multiple ways to achieve the goal, the method with the best interests and the least damage to the client should be chosen.
- 5.3. The method of protecting the client from harm caused by means must not be incompatible with the intended purpose.
- 5.4. Respect the client's right to self-determination.

6. The practice of social workers shall abide by laws and regulations, the constitution of the association of social workers and this code.

## **Chapter II Code**

### 1. Social Worker's Ethics Responsibilities to Clients

1.1. Social workers should be based on social fairness and justice, with the priority of promoting the well-being of clients.

1.2. Social workers should respect and promote the self-determination rights of clients, and should not restrict the self-determination rights of clients except for preventing illegal infringements, safeguarding public interests, and enhancing social well-being. If the client is a minor or a person with a disability, if he cannot fully express his will, he should respect the intention of the client's guardian, legal representative, or client; unless the decision of the former person violates the legal interests of the client or a third party, otherwise It is not appropriate to replace the decision of those who have the right to decide with the social worker's own opinion.

1.3. When providing services, social workers should clearly inform the client about service goals, limitations, risks, costs and rights measures, etc., and assist the client to make a rational analysis so that the client can make the best choice.

1.4. Social workers should maintain a normal professional relationship with clients and should not have improper dual or multiple relationships with clients to obtain improper benefits.

1.5. When a social worker needs to terminate a service client due to ethical conflict or avoidance of interests, social workers should clearly inform the client in advance and provide appropriate and necessary referral services.

1.6. Social workers should keep professional secrets; even if clients are dead, they must still respect their right to privacy. Clients or third parties requesting access to social work records of individual cases should comply with social work ethics and government regulations; otherwise, social workers may refuse to disclose information. However, confidentiality shall be restricted under the following special circumstances:

a. The right to privacy belongs to the client, and the client has the right to waive it personally or through a guardian or legal representative.

b. When there is an urgent danger involved, based on the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of the client or other third parties.

c. When the social worker has the duty of warning.

d. When the social worker has the relevant reporting responsibilities stipulated by law.

e. When the service object has a fatal infectious disease.

f. When assessing a client for suicide risk.

g. When the client is involved in a criminal case.

1.7. When social workers collect service fees, they should inform the clients of the charging standards in advance. The fees charged should be reasonable and appropriate and comply with relevant laws and regulations, and improper gifts should not be accepted.

1.8. Without the consent of the client, other information that can directly or indirectly identify the client shall not be published on public or social networking sites.

1.9. When using social networking sites or online communication tools to interact with clients, avoid harming the legal rights of clients.

## 2. Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities to Colleagues

2.1. Social workers should respect colleagues, support and motivate each other, and cooperate with social work and other professionals to jointly improve the well-being of clients.

2.2. When social workers are not suitable or unable to provide appropriate services for clients, they should seek resource integration or referrals to appropriate professionals through professional or cross-professional division of labor; before completing the referral, appropriate measures should be taken to protect clients rights

and interests; when referring, the client should be fully informed of the direction of the future referral service, and the service information of the individual case should be properly informed of the future service agency, so as to facilitate the transfer of services.

2.3. When colleagues and clients have disputes over trust or services, the professional knowledge of colleagues and the legitimate rights and interests of clients should be respected, so as to safeguard the rights and interests of clients and reasonable professional trust of colleagues.

2.4. In order to maintain social work ethics and help protect the legitimate rights and interests of colleagues, when social workers face unfair or unethical requirements, the parties or agents should report to the service organization or the social worker associations in various regions, and the social worker associations of the Republic of China National Federations and social work authorities appeal to protect legitimate rights and interests and implement social work professional ethics.

### 3. Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities in Practice Settings

3.1. Social workers should be committed to the promotion of social welfare policies, improve the efficiency of welfare services, and fairly carry out welfare payment and welfare resource allocation according to law.

3.2. Social workers should have professional skills in social work and constantly enrich themselves; when serving as educators and supervisors, they should try their best to provide professional guidance and evaluate events fairly and objectively; when receiving education and supervision, they should be rational, introspective, and accept criticism and suggestions.

3.3. The service records of social workers shall be recorded in a timely, accurate and objective manner in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations, and shall be properly preserved to ensure the rights and privacy of the clients.

3.4. When referring clients or accepting referrals, social workers should carefully evaluate the possible benefits and risks after referral, and faithfully provide referral consulting services for clients.

3.5. Social workers should abide by laws and regulations, faithfully and effectively present work results, assist social work education and human development, and strive for a fair and reasonable working environment for social workers.

3.6. Social workers should participate in rights-fighting activities under the social work ethics norms, and faithfully evaluate the possible benefits and risks derived from the services to the clients and the general public.

### 4. Ethical Responsibilities to the Social Worker Profession

4.1. Social workers should tolerate multiculturalism, respect multicultural phenomena, and prevent social inequalities caused by discrimination based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, age, marital status, physical and mental disabilities, religious beliefs, and political ideas. .

4.2. Social workers should pay attention to the impact of their words and deeds on the clients, service organizations, and the general public.

4.3. Social workers should enhance the professional image of social work and service quality, attach importance to the value of social work, implement codes of ethics, and enrich social work knowledge and skills.

4.4. Social workers should be committed to the inheritance of the social work profession and promote the fair and reasonable practice of social welfare.

4.5. Social workers should enhance the development of social work professional knowledge, conduct research and publications, and abide by social work research ethics.

4.6. Social workers should promote the establishment of a social work professional system and develop various social work measures and activities.

## 5. Ethical Responsibilities to general public

5.1. Social workers should promote the development of social welfare, advocate the satisfaction of basic human needs, and promote the realization of social justice.

5.2. Social workers should be committed to the advocacy and practice of social welfare.

5.3. Social workers should safeguard the rights and interests of vulnerable groups, and assist oppressed, exploited, and bullied people to obtain social security.

5.4. When social workers interact with the media or accept interviews, if they involve clients, they should obtain informed consent and protect their privacy.

5.5. Social workers should urge government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the general public to perform social welfare and implement the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of clients.

5.6. In the face of social security emergencies caused by disasters, social workers should provide professional services to protect vulnerable groups from life, body, freedom, property dangers and accidental risks.

## **Chapter III Supplementary Provisions**

1. If a social worker violates the law, the constitution of the association of social workers, or this code of ethics, unless otherwise stipulated in the law, the place where the violation of ethics is located or the association of social workers to which it belongs

will be deliberated and dealt with.

2. This code will come into effect after being approved by the National Federation of Social Workers Associations of the Republic of China, and it will be submitted to the Ministry of Health and Welfare for future reference. The same is true for revisions.