

Code of Ethics

As a member of a recognized profession, social workers are bound by ethical guidelines for practice, typically referred to as a 'code of ethics'. Such statements identify our professional responsibility and, in particular, what behaviors are ethical and acceptable for professional practice. The codes reflect agreements of what professional social workers see as permissible standards of conduct and agree that all professionals, including students, are bound to these standards. They guide our practice, our professional relationships and our behaviors with colleagues and clients, and guide us on issues of importance to the social work profession. A code of ethics also creates a sense of professional identity, which binds all social workers no matter what their practice setting or modality.

The University of Houston Graduate College Of Social Work, as voted on by the faculty, endorsed three different ethical codes that all students and faculty are obligated to abide by the standards expressed in these codes.

The ethical codes are:

National Association of Social Workers:

<http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp>

International Association of Schools of Social Work:

http://www.ifsw.org/cm_data/GlobalSocialWorkStandards2005.pdf

Texas Department of Health Services Board of Social Worker Examiners:

http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/socialwork/sw_conduct.shtm