

Ethical behavior comes from a social worker's individual commitment to engage in ethical practice. Both the spirit and letter of this code of ethics will guide social workers as they act in good faith and with a genuine desire to make sound judgements

(Excerpt from the 2005 CASW Code of Ethics)

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ETHICAL CONSULTATIONS



Professional Issues Committee

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The Professional Issues Committee of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers (NLASW) provides consultation and feedback to members on ethical issues.

Consultations are guided by the CASW (2005) Code of Ethics, CASW (2005) Guidelines for Ethical Practices, the Social Workers Act (2010), and other relevant legislation.

In addition to ethical consultations, the committee identifies, examines and analyzes issues facing the profession from an ethical perspective, and is involved in the development of discussion papers and position statements, professional education, and writing for the Connecting Voices Newsletter.

The committee meets monthly and is comprised of social workers from diverse areas of practice. For a complete committee list, please visit the NLASW website at www.nlaws.ca.

ETHICAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

Social workers can request an ethics consultation from the Professional Issues Committee by contacting the NLASW office by phone, e-mail, letter, or by filling out the ethical consultation request form found on the NLASW website.

Ethical consultation requests are generally discussed during monthly committee meetings (held the first Thursday of every month). However, if a more immediate response is necessary, requests may be forwarded to NLASW social work staff who also provide this service for individual members.

Requests for consultation must include an overview of the ethical dilemma or issue and steps that have been taken towards resolution. This information should have sufficient detail to allow the committee to make an informed response.

Members' names can be excluded from committee discussions upon request, however contact information is needed for follow-up and documentation.

RESPONSE

As social workers are responsible for their own practice decisions, the Professional Issues Committee does not provide answers or make specific recommendations. Ethical consultations are collegial and feedback is provided for information purposes only.

Committee responses are generally provided to members within one day of the committee meeting and discussion. The response may be given verbally or in the form of a written response.

DOCUMENTATION

All consultations are documented and a consultation record is kept securely at the NLASW office. The consultation record contains an overview of the ethical dilemma or issue, steps taken to resolve the issue, applicable sections of the 2005 CASW Code of Ethics, and committee feedback/points for consideration. Having written records will allow the committee to monitor ethical issues and trends while adhering to the NLASW Standards for Recording.