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Code of Ethics

The NASW Code of Ethics defines the values, principles, and ethical standards that guide decision-making and everyday professional conduct of social workers. It is relevant to all social workers and social work students regardless of their specific functions or settings. The 2021 updates to the Code include new language in the *Purpose of the NASW Code of Ethics* and *Ethical Principles* sections that address the importance of professional self-care; and revisions to standard 1.05, Cultural Competence, that provide more explicit guidance to social workers. All social workers should review the new text and affirm their commitment to abide by the Code of Ethics. Also available in Spanish.

Read the Code of Ethics

- [Read the Code of Ethics online](#)
- [Read the Código de Ética \(Spanish version\)](#)

Buy a Copy of the Code of Ethics

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- [Orden El Código de Ética de NASW \(Spanish version\)](#) ➔

Code of Ethics History

NASW's Delegate Assembly approved the first edition of the NASW Code of Ethics on October 13, 1960. Since then, the Code has emerged as the standard bearer for defining the values and principles that guide social workers' conduct in all practice areas.

Learn how the Code of Ethics has evolved over time

The Code of Ethics after 55 years remains the principal tool in making a difference in a client's life. It empowers us with the strength to advocate for the oppressed and emboldens us with the courage to speak for the voiceless.

— Sherry Saturno, LCSW, DCSW

The Code of Ethics has been that guide and reinforcement for me that if I follow it then, yes I am doing what I am called to do as a social worker and doing it in a manner that it was intended.

— Tricia Cubitt, LCSW

Each day I strive to be a better person because of the Code of Ethics. I continuously am doing community service because I believe it makes the world a better place one step at a time.

— Baliegh Jene Cannistraci, BSW



Learn About the Code of Ethics

Ethics Continuing Education

- [Webinar: "Understanding the NASW Code of Ethics"](#)
- [Webinar: "2021 Revisions to the NASW Code of Ethics"](#)

Free Ethics Resources

- [Webinar: "2021 Revisions to the NASW Code of Ethics"](#) (Free-no CE credit will be issued)
- [2021 Revisions to the NASW Code of Ethics](#)
- [Revised Language Highlighted](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)



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