

Chapter 20

The ethics of social work practice

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 Self-determination
Maintaining confidentiality
 Situations where consent to disclosure of information is implied
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 ... and the related duty to warn
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Chapter summary

Social work holds dear the principles of the dignity and worth of each individual. These principles can be applied to social practice when the social worker facilitates self-determination and empowerment, respects diversity, and promotes social justice. Care should also be taken to safeguard confidentiality, respect colleagues, and take responsibility for one's own professional conduct. These principles and terms are ones with which social workers are readily familiar and use every day and which are embedded in the 2010 AASW *Code of Ethics*. This chapter considers the key ethical principles that are viewed by the social work profession and its practitioners as hallmarks of good professional practice and discusses how they apply to social workers.

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Websites

No claim is made as to the accuracy or authenticity of the content of the sites suggested in this chapter. Site addresses change – if the address is no longer accurate, search using keywords or the title of the organisation concerned.

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Notes

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- 1 Available at <www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/sheets/rs3/rs3.html>.