

# Ethical Dilemma

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2023 April 2

# Agenda:

1. Description of ethical dilemma
2. Key Values
3. Ranking of Values
4. Possible Solutions
5. Use of Supervision
6. Final Solution
7. Technology

# Ethical Dilemma

You are a new social worker in a rehabilitation program for traumatized clients. The client in question is a 40-year-old white woman who has experienced many sexual traumas throughout her life. She attends her sessions at the clinic in neatly pressed dresses, and it appears that it is important for her to look very nice. She has a 50-year-old white male social worker as her case manager. She seems to like his attentiveness and sometimes dresses in low-cut tight-fitting dresses. You notice that the case manager has given her extra time at the end of the day. You witness this more experienced male social worker hugging this client at the end of the workday when most of the staff have left for home. You don't feel quite right about what you saw but don't want to jump to conclusions. This male social worker is well-respected by all of his colleagues in the clinic and well-liked by his clients.

# Key Points of Ethical Dilemma:

- Client has a history of sexual trauma.
- Client has changed her attire to a more prerogative look.
- The Social worker has substantial experience in the field of therapy.
- The case manager allows the client extra time at the end of sessions.

# Ethical Dilemma:

- Dual relationship
- An intimate relationship may not be helpful to the client and may be triggering
- Services provided are now inadequate.

## Key Values:



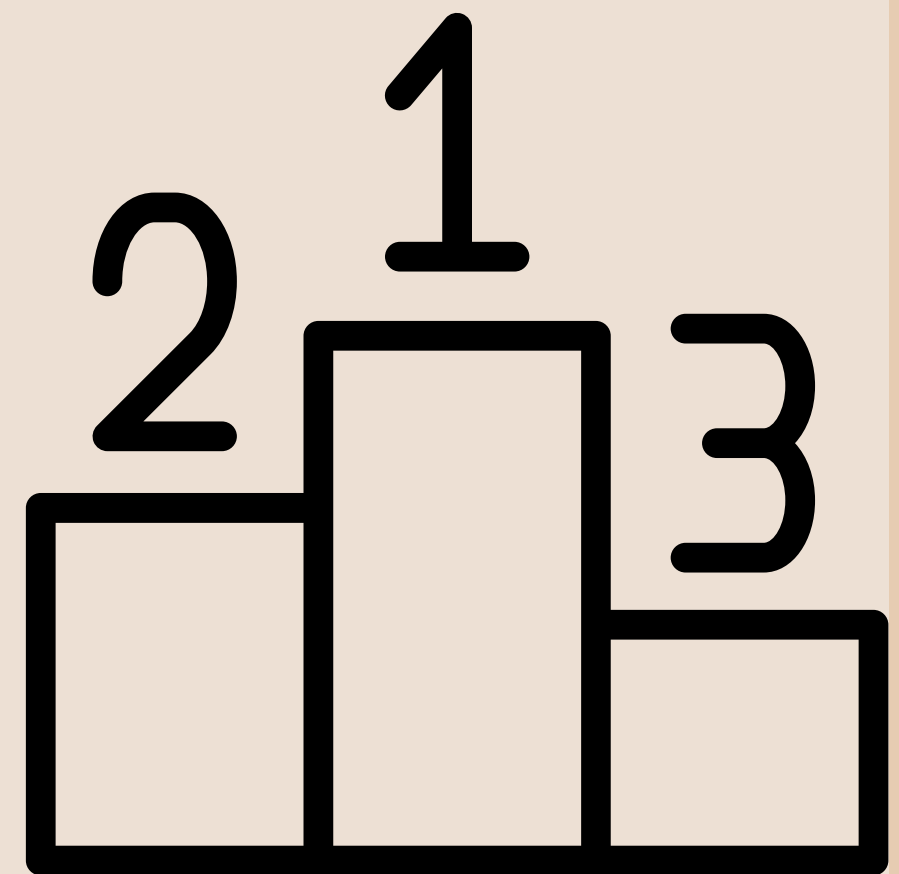
**Service**

**Dignity and  
Worth of a  
Person**

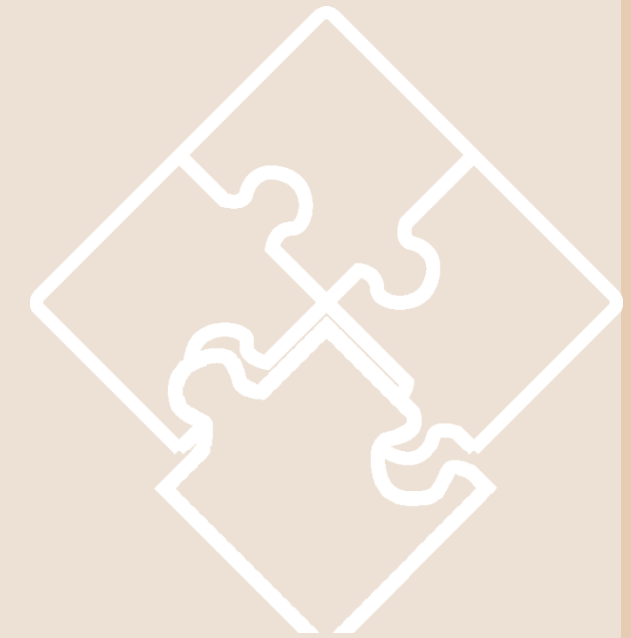
**Competence**

# Ranking of values:

1. Service
2. Dignity and worth of a person
3. Competency



# Solutions:



**Termination of Practitioner**

**Refer the client to a different Agency**

## 1.06 conflicts of interest

"Social workers should inform clients when a real or potential conflict of interest arises and take reasonable steps to resolve the issue in a manner that makes the clients' interests primary and protects clients' interests to the greatest extent possible. In some cases, protecting clients' interests may require termination of the professional relationship with proper referral of the client " (NASW,2021).



## **Strength:**

Client will receive adequate service as it relates to the clients needs and trauma informed care.

## **Limitation:**

Client may feel as though confidentiality has been breached and other practitioners were informed of the dual relationship.

## Use of Supervision:



### **Supportive Supervision:**

- Help in high stress situations
- Help manage the situation
- Advocate

### **Educational Supervision:**

- Provide Guidance
- Support in finding solutions
- Share knowledge

# Final Solution:

## Termination of Practitioner

Practitioner will be terminated based on these code of ethics terms:

- 1.17 Social workers should not terminate services to pursue a social, financial, or sexual relationship with a client.
- 1.06 (c) Social workers should not engage in dual or multiple relationships with clients or former clients in which there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client.
- 1.06 (e) Social workers should avoid communication with clients using technology (such as social networking sites, online chat, e-mail, text messages, telephone, and video) for personal or non-work-related purposes.

(NASW,2021)

# Technology

Means of communication among colleagues and research.

# Thank you!

**Please do not hesitate to ask questions or share concerns!**

# References:

NASW Code of Ethics. NASW, National Association of Social Workers. (2021). Retrieved April 2, 2023, from <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English/Social-Workers-Ethical-Responsibilities-to-Clients>