

BOOK REVIEW

Horn, Thomas (2011). *Is it Ethical: 101 Scenarios in Everyday Social Work Practice*. Harrisburg, PA: White Hat Communications. <http://www.socialworker.com> and <http://shop.whitehatcommunications.com>

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While serving as a BSW program director for more than thirty years, I have always maintained an agency-based clinical practice and various consulting supervision in the fields of case management, domestic violence, children's residential care, and adult developmental disabilities. In both the classroom and practice setting, students and practitioners appreciate the consideration and review of scenarios that tease the dilemma of applying the ethical code of social work practice. The author, Thomas Horn, MSW, is a Registered Social Worker (RSW) also having worked in a variety of social service settings for more than twenty years. He currently works with an inpatient forensic team in a large psychiatric hospital in Ontario and supervises social work students.

The format of this 118-page discussion workbook is to introduce 101 scenarios that attend to 25 categories of ethical practice, that is, boundaries, documentation, duty to client, supervision, and others. Each page describes a scenario followed by four to six questions to direct discussion and to consider variations to the scenario. I field-tested several of the scenarios in a sophomore and a senior level undergraduate class and was reminded of the differing effect of a text-driven story and a professor's tale of a practice dilemma. "Ashley is a social worker at a youth shelter with a teen-age girl who is again complaining

of suicidal ideation. Savinna works at a secular family counseling center and frequently prays with her clients." A brief elaboration of each scenario follows. These scenarios are brief enough to recall for discussion, yet still contain enough of the elements to foster an assessment of the developing professional perspective in a student or agency staff population.

A select listing of Web links to social work codes of ethics is provided. (*The Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics* is referenced as one source of published articles on social work ethics.) The task of introducing the relevant Code of Ethics and applying the appropriate citations is the workbook portion of the text. There is a range of complexity of scenarios, with some being straightforward and fundamental in presenting the language of ethics. Concepts like integrity and self-determination are operationalized in a meaningful way in the scenarios. More complex scenarios could be developed for advanced ethical discussion. But if you need a resource to begin a discussion of ethics in a classroom or agency in-service, this workbook qualifies for Social Work Ethics 101.