

Editorial: FREE ETHICS CONSULTATION! (With a slight catch)

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For the past 15 years, the editor and members of the editorial board have received desperate phone calls and emails addressing issues related to ethical dilemmas. There is a wide range of complexity in the issues presented. For example, some need help finding information regarding the topic of hiring a social worker with a criminal record. Others request information about standards in the *NASW Code of Ethics* regarding dual relationships. Many of the issues presented fall outside the realm of a particular article that we have published. Some of the issues require an ethics expert who is intimately familiar with the code and other resources useful in making the best ethical decisions. Unfortunately, such questions are beyond the scope of our editorial board. An ethics consultation with a competent ethicist can cost more than \$100 an hour. This cost does *not* include the additional cost of consulting *competent* counsel. The fact is, *not every* lawyer has the requisite training or experience. How would you feel if you paid good money for advice that did not resolve your problem or provide you the tools to reach closure?

CHEER UP! There is good news for social workers who are facing ethical dilemmas. The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) offers free ethical consultations for dilemmas that can even be complex and multi-layered. This service is available four days a week by calling 800.742.4089. The National Association of Social Workers has professional social workers and legal staff knowledgeable about the NASW code of ethics whose expertise also includes knowledge about social work practice situations. In addition, the staff is able to offer resources available online.

So, how does one access this special information? To obtain this free consultation service, one must be a member of NASW. If you want to join and take advantage of this and many other great benefits, contact NASW at: 800.742.4089. Or go to: <https://www.socialworkers.org/online-join/join.aspx>