



National Council for Hospice and Palliative Professionals

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ETHICAL CONSIDERATION IN BEREAVEMENT CARE

BEREAVEMENT PROFESSIONAL SECTION

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NCHPP: What is it?



- NCHPP is a collaborative of 15 discipline specific professional sections advancing end-of-life care within their disciplines.
- NCHCPP's on-line resources, forums and networking will help you grow professionally, find new solutions, contribute to the field, and elevate the national profile of your program.

My.NHPCO



- Professional communities
- Discussion Posts
- Monthly Chats
- Library entries
- Blog

Please contact us...



- if you have questions about membership
- if you have topics you would like us to discuss
- if you would like a mentor
- if you would like to become a section committee member

What is an ethical dilemma?



- According to The Social Work Dictionary, an ethical dilemma occurs when two or more moral values seem to be equally valid but contradictory and the individual is required to make the best possible choice from among them.



How do we determine the “best possible choice”?



- **Professional Standards**
- **Corporate/Company Standards**
- **Personal Standards**
- **Others?**

Professional Standards



- **Professional conduct**: behavior in accordance with a profession's *code of ethics*. Most professions set forth explicit standards of professional conduct and provide processes for reporting, reviewing and sanctioning violations. (The Social Work Dictionary)
 - NASW-competencies, principles, ethical responsibilities
 - ✦ Most notable: confidentiality, conflicts of interest, relationships (once a client always a client)
 - Committee for Professional Counselors (Missouri)
 - Chaplaincy boards??
 - Others??

Corporate/Company Standards



- Dictate policies that are typically designed to safeguard the company and its employees from a legal and financial standpoint
- Usually have provisions for employee behavior
- Outline practices for documentation
- Companies may have ethics committees: formal panels established to consult about ethical issues and review potential deviations from ethical codes (The Social Work Dictionary)
- Others?

Personal Standards



- Religious beliefs
- Political beliefs
- Long held personal beliefs
- Attitude and biases (unconscious and conscious)
- Others?



Examples of ethical issues:



- **Scope of practice:** are we working as strictly bereavement professionals?
- **Relationships:** Are we careful in the relationships we form with our clients?
 - Conflicts of interest, dual relationships, physical contact
- **Personal disclosure:** Are we using disclosure appropriately and therapeutically?
- **Confidentiality:** Are we careful to respect this when working with multiple family members? How does this affect who we follow in BR?
 - Also marketing and orientation considerations

Examples continued....



- **Self Determination:** are we respecting what our BR say about declining visits or contact?
- **Informed Consent:** are we obtaining? How does your hospice interpret this?
- **Fundraising and Solicitation:** for money, volunteers and positive survey results
- **Relationships with colleagues:** Do we trust their assessment skills? What happens when we question their ethics or their ethical map conflicts with our own?
 - Providing support to co-workers
- **Supervision/Consultation:** Do we have opportunities for such?
 - Education and training (CEs)

What do we do when worlds collide?



What else?



**PLEASE SHARE ETHICAL DILEMMAS YOU
HAVE ENCOUNTERED AND HOW THEY WERE
OR WERE NOT ADDRESSED....**





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National Hospice and Palliative Care
Organization