

Component D: Ethical practices

Registrants have a responsibility to clients, colleagues, society and the profession to engage in ethical social work practice.

Standard:	Indicator
Registrants must	
1. Work in the best interest of the service user	1.1 Clearly identify the service user(s).
	1.2 Differentiate between one's own needs and those of the service user to ensure services are targeted to the needs of the service user.
	1.3 Reasonably adapt and modify practice to meet needs of service users.
	1.4 When working with multiple clients together (such as couple or groups), clarify at onset of service how information will be recorded, shared and confidentially upheld.
	1.5 Do not use information or engage in conduct that is perceived to coerce, manipulate, influence, harass, abuse or exploit people.
	1.6 Appropriately manage the termination of relationships with service user.
	1.7 Provide sufficient information to allow service users to engage in informed decision making.
	1.8 Speak respectfully to and about service users at all times.

Standard:	Indicator
Registrants must	
2. Recognize, define and maintain personal and professional boundaries	2.1 When using social media or networking technology, only use professional platforms/accounts in connection to the provision of services.
	2.2 Registrants should not engage in dual relationships where there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the service user.
	2.3 Where dual relationships are reasonably unavoidable, Registrants take steps to protect service users and are responsible for setting clear, appropriate, and culturally sensitive boundaries.
	2.4 Avoid dual roles (assessor, counsellor, consultant).
	2.5 Avoid conflicts of interest or relationships that are perceived to or impair your ability to perform your professional duties.

2.6 Do not engage in physical contact with service users unless therapeutically appropriate and clear, appropriate, and culturally sensitive boundaries have been established.

Standard:	Indicator
Registrants must	
3. Engage in ethical decision-making	3.1 Identify the current or emerging ethical dilemma(s).
	3.2 Declare if you are in a position which conflicts with or may be perceived to conflict with professional ethics and work towards a resolution.
	3.3 Be aware of ethical and legal issues in mandatory reporting requirements.
	3.4 Protect service users from unethical conduct of colleagues.

Standard:	Indicator
Registrants must	
4. Consider the appropriateness of accepting or offering gestures of gratitude	4.1 Evaluate the meaning and intention of a gift.
	4.2 Evaluate the implications of accepting or refusing a gift. If refusing or accepting a gift, do so in a manner that mitigates potential harm to the relationship.
	4.3 Only accept a gift if culturally and therapeutically appropriate, where there is no risk of harm and the perception of bias is unlikely.

Standard:	Indicator
Registrants must	
5. Maintain ethical conduct	5.1 Do not engage in conduct that could compromise the Registrant's relationship with service user(s) and colleagues.
	5.2 Adhere to these standards in the event of conflict between the Registrant's work environment and the standards.
	5.3 Work within your scope of practice.
	5.4 Do not mislead the public.
	5.5 When referencing sources of information, correctly identify the source.
	5.6 Only share information regarding colleagues and employers with informed consent.

Standard:**Indicator**

Registrants must**6. Exercise caution if behavioural indicators of a sexual nature arise**

- 6.1 Do not engage in sexual behaviours, statements or actions with current service users or persons over whom professional authority is exercised, including but not limited to, workplace subordinates, supervisees, research participants and students.
- 6.2 Do not engage in sexual behaviours with former service user(s), direct relatives, guardians or partners of the service user, for two years after the termination of the professional relationship unless reasonable probability of risk, harm or exploitation exists. If a sexual relationship occurs, the Registrant is responsible for demonstrating that the service user has not been harmed, adversely impacted, coerced, manipulated or exploited.