

Canadian Association of Social Workers

CASW Code to Code Mapping

Mapping the CASW 2005 Code of Ethics and 2005 Guidelines for Ethical Practice to the CASW Code of Ethics (2024)

The following chart focus on the elements of the CASW Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice (2005) and compares them with the CASW Code of Ethics (2024)

| Elements | 2005 Code of Ethics & 2005 Guidelines for Ethical Practice | 2024 Code of Ethics | Rational for Revisions |
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| The Code of Ethics | Two separate documents; the <i>Code of Ethics</i> that includes values and underlying principles, and the <i>Guidelines for Ethical Practice</i> provides es direction for ethical behaviours. | One document that includes many of the Guidelines found in the 2005 Guidelines for Ethical Practice | For ease of application across all social work domains |
| Purpose | Code of Ethics articulates the professional values and the underlying principles of social work practice. The Guidelines for Ethical Practice served as a companion document to the Code by applying values and principles in the Code to 8 areas of practice that are common across the Scope of Practice. | The Code articulates the values, guiding principles and guidelines of social work practice | The 2024 Code shares the same purpose with the 2005 Code. |
| Terms | Client: A person, family, group of persons, incorporated body, association, or community | Service User: Individuals (clients, patients, residents, etc.), parents and substitute decision-makers, | The term ‘service user’ is an inclusive generic term commonly used in social services to describe people |

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| | <p>on whose behalf a social worker provides or agrees to provide a service or to whom the social worker is legally obligated to provide a service.</p> <p>In the French version: Social Worker: Use of singular title in French (Le travailleur social) and use of ‘masculin’ term throughout</p> | <p>families, groups, communities, and populations who access or receive social work services. The Code uses the terms “all people” and “people” that include all individuals, families, groups, and communities, irrespective of their participation social work services to indicate the social work profession’s ethical responsibilities beyond the context of providing services.</p> <p>All People or People: The Code uses the terms “all people” and “people” that include all individuals, families, groups, and communities, irrespective of their participation social work services to indicate the social work profession’s ethical responsibilities beyond the context of providing services.</p> <p>In French version: The term les “bénéficiaires de services” was used throughout.</p> <p>Social Workers: Use of plural title and use of both ‘masculin’ and ‘feminin’ in French (les travailleuses et travailleurs sociaux) in Guiding Principle</p> | <p>who are engaged in any service provided by a social work professional within the Scope of Practice.</p> <p>‘All people’ or ‘people’ are all encompassing terms that goes beyond service provision and recognizes obligations for ethical behaviour beyond duties to service users.</p> <p>In the French version: Considered regional differences/preferences and selected most ‘accepted’ term.</p> <p>Selected neutral formulation (e.g., collective nouns and epicene expressions) whenever possible to shorten the text; weighting the use of complete doublets.</p> |
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| | | statements use TS acronym as gender neutral title thereafter. | |
| Values | 6 Values written in passive voice Each value is accompanied by a preamble explaining the value and a number of principles | 7 Values written in active voice and denotes actions to carry out the value. Includes the new value: Pursuing Truth and Reconciliation | Values are stated using verbs indicating the action to uphold the value. |
| Guiding Principles | #29 Underlying Principles Are descriptions of behaviours that fall into the value and provide guidance about ethical behaviour. | # 28 Guiding Principles Guiding Principles are aligned with a value and define the parameters for expected ethical behaviour. | For ease of use and application. Many GP found in the 2005 Code were revised to address contemporary issues and included in the 2024 Code. |
| Context for Practice | Not in the Code but a preamble is provided that gives an explanation about the principle. | New It is a brief paragraph that provides additional information on how the guiding principle is applied to practice. It is not all inclusive but provides a context for the social worker. | To support ease of adoption of the Code. |
| Guidelines | Guidelines in the companion document to the Code organized around 8 'common areas of social work practice' Each area of practice (called a Section in the document) has 39 subsections. Many subsections include an introductory explanation, and all subsections have a number of guidelines for a total of 155 guidelines. Many guidelines provide guidance on specific sets of behaviours. | A total of 174 Guidelines that are aligned to Guiding Principles and to a value. Guidelines are not all inclusive and usually focus on behaviours and actions at a high level that are necessary to demonstrate carry out the Guiding Principle and ultimately, the Value. | For ease of use and adoption of the Code as a single document. |
| Glossary | Yes | Yes | Updated to include terms and phrases used in the Code |

The following chart highlights the differences between the Values, Underlying Principles and Guidelines in the CASW Code of Ethics (2005) and the Guidelines for Ethical Practice (2005) and the Values, Guiding Principles, Context for Practice and Guidelines in the CASW Code of Ethics (2024)

Value 1

| Guiding Principles, Context for Practice and Guidelines | 2005 Code of Ethics and 2005 Guidelines for Practice | 2024 Code of Ethics | Rational for Revision(s) |
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| Value Statement | Respect for the inherent Dignity and worth of Persons (Value 1) | Respecting the Dignity and Worth of All People | Action verb added to emphasize behaviours that will follow from implementing the value. The term 'All People' used in keeping with the language in the Code. |
| Guiding Principles | <p>7 Underlying Principles are: Social workers respect the unique worth and inherent dignity of all people and uphold human rights.</p> <p>Social workers uphold each person's right to self-determination, consistent with that person's capacity and with the rights of others.</p> <p>Social workers respect the diversity among individuals in Canadian society and the right of individuals to their unique</p> | <p>7 Guiding Principles in new code are:</p> <p>1.1 Social workers respect the inherent dignity and with of all people.</p> <p>1.2 Social workers promote the self-determination and autonomy of all people.</p> <p>1.3 Social workers uphold the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people consistent with applicable rights and legislation.</p> | <p>Guiding principles are high level statements to guide decision-making.</p> <p>Many of the underlying principles from the 2005 version are included but have been revised to reflect current practice.</p> <p>1.1 & 1.2 The changes stress a social worker's duty to respect all people and uphold their rights to self-determination, autonomy, and informed consent.</p> <p>1.3 The social worker's duty to uphold the human rights of all people is highlighted and references legislation</p> |

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| | <p>beliefs consistent with the rights of others.</p> <p>Social workers respect the client’s right to make choices based on voluntary, informed consent.</p> <p>Social workers who have children as clients determine the child’s ability to consent and where appropriate, explain to the child and to the child’s parent/guardians, the nature of the social worker’s relationship to the child.</p> <p>Social workers uphold the right of society to impose limitations on the self-determination of individuals, when such limitations protect individuals from self-harm and from harming others.</p> <p>Social workers uphold the right of every person to be free from violence and threat of violence.</p> | <p>1.4 Social workers respect the status, rights, diversity and needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples.</p> <p>1.5 Social workers uphold the rights of all people to receive services in a manner that considers intersecting factors of exclusion and respects all manner of diversity.</p> <p>1.6 Social workers respect the rights of service users to make decisions based on involuntary consent when possible,</p> <p>1.7 Social workers uphold the rights of every person, group and community to be free from violence or threat of violence.</p> | <p>that protects the rights of Indigenous people.</p> <p>1.4 is new and to honour the importance of reconciliation and the TRC’s Calls to Action for social work and recognizes the recent Federal legislation on the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, 2021.</p> <p>1.5 reflects contemporary practice issues and emphasizes that services must be offered in a manner that respects service users’ ethnicity, national origin, age, economic status, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, culture, varying abilities, language, religion, values, and beliefs and strengthens the importance of a trauma informed approach, knowledge about intersectionality and expands the responsibilities to include advocating for equitable, diverse, and inclusive workplaces.</p> <p>1.7 reflects contemporary knowledge about violence and the rights of every person to be free from violence.</p> |
| Context for Practice | Not included, a preamble is included to explain each value | Statements supplement each guiding principle and provides additional information on how the delivery of competent | The CfP key themes includes; 1.3 references the applicable legislative authorities and emphasizes a trauma approach to practice. |

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| | | <p>professional services is applied in practice.</p> | <p>Highlights the importance of advocacy to support the advancement of social, political, and cultural rights of all people protects people and allows them to develop to their fullest potential.</p> <p>1.5 Emphasizes that social workers deliver services that considers all intersecting factors of exclusion and respects all manner of diversity, and they understand trauma and resilience and how traumatic events impact individuals, families, and communities.</p> <p>1.7 applies contemporary understanding of violence in society and families, recognizes that it is a public health issue affecting all people and across generations.</p> |
| <p>Guidelines</p> | <p>28 Guidelines found in the companion document apply to this Value as noted below.</p> <p>1 Ethical Responsibilities to Clients. 1.1 Priority of Clients' Interests 1.1.1-1.1.6, 1.3 Promote Client Self-Determination and Informed Consent- 1.3.1-1.3.6 1.4 Responsibilities to Involuntary Clients and Clients Not Capable of Consent 1.4.1-1.4.6</p> | <p>38 Guidelines</p> <p>Guideline statements align with the CFP statements and describe specific behaviours that support guiding principles for ethical practice in respecting all people and upholding human rights.</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 1.1 (1.1.1-1.1.3)</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 1.2 (1.2.1-1.2.11)</p> | <p>For ease of use and adoption. Applies contemporary social work approaches that are relevant to this value. Revisions were focused on Thematic Foci areas and were clustered accordingly.</p> <p>Provides clarity that the behaviours outlined in the guideline demonstrate the guiding principle and the value in their practice. Some of the guidelines under the <i>Ethical Responsibilities to Clients</i> of the 2005 accompanying document are applicable and brought under this value and some are combined to create one guideline in the Code.</p> |

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| | <p>1.6 Protection of Vulnerable Members of Society 1.6.1-1.6.4</p> <p>1.8 Practices for Termination or Interruption of Services 1.8.1-1.8.6.</p> | <p>Guideline statements under GP 1.3 (1.3.1-1.3.5)</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 1.4 (1.4.1-1.4.8)</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 1.5 (1.5.1-1.5.6)</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 1.6 (1.6.1-1.6.5)</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 1.7 (1.7.1-1.7.5)</p> | |
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Value 2

| Guiding Principles, Context for Practice and Guidelines | 2005 Code of Ethics and 2005 Guidelines for Practice | 2024 Code of Ethics | Rational for Revision(s) |
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| Value Statement | Pursuit of Social Justice (Value 2) | Promoting Social Justice | Action verb added to emphasize behaviours that will follow from implementing the value. |
| Guiding Principles | <p>4 Underlying Principles include:</p> <p>1. Social workers uphold the right of people to have access to resources to meet basic human needs.</p> <p>2. Social workers advocate for fair and equitable access to public services and benefits.</p> | <p>4 Guiding Principles include:</p> <p>2.1 Social workers uphold the principles of social justice related to the rights of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities to receive fair and equitable access to services, resources, and opportunities and</p> | <p>Guiding principles were written at a higher level, encompassing several of the underlying principles from the 2005 version.</p> <p>2.1 Links fair and equitable access to services, with freedom from oppression, racism, and discrimination. Emphasizes social justice and human rights including those of communities. GP 2.1 integrates</p> |

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| | <p>3. Social workers advocate for equal treatment and protection under the law and challenge injustices, especially injustices that affect the vulnerable and disadvantaged.</p> <p>4. Social workers promote social development and environmental management in the interests of all people.</p> | <p>to be free of oppression, racism and discrimination.</p> <p>2.2 Social workers advocate for the rights of Indigenous peoples to be free from racism, systemic racism, and discrimination as stipulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.</p> <p>2.3 Social workers advocate for the rights of all individuals, families, groups, and communities to be free from oppression, exclusion, racism, and discrimination.</p> <p>2.4 Social workers advocate for the stewardship of natural resources and the protection of the environment for the common good of all people.</p> | <p>Underlying Principles 1 and 2 in the 2005 version for easy and application.</p> <p>New is the focus on advocating for the rights of Indigenous peoples to be free from oppression, racism, and discrimination and addresses legislation in Canada since 2005.</p> <p>2.3 focuses on rights of all people and is not limited to rights of those who are understood to be vulnerable or disadvantaged.</p> <p>2.4 is a deeper emphasis on the environment and call for social work advocacy for environmental protections for the well-being of all people. Acknowledges that climate change impacts all people and disproportionately impacts vulnerable people.</p> |
| Context for Practice | Not included – A preamble is included to explain each value | CFP statements supplement each guiding principle and provides additional information on how providing competent professional services is applied in practice. | Includes contemporary terms and social work approaches. The dominant themes across the CFP are: The inclusion of the social determinants of health as a pathway for social workers to understand the ways in which educational, racial, socioeconomic, and other inequities influence the well-being of all people. |

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| | | | The rights of all people to be free from oppression, exclusion, racism, and discrimination; AND social workers understanding how people are further disadvantaged by intersecting factors. |
| Guidelines | <p>31 Guidelines in the companion document to the Code apply to this Value as noted below.</p> <p>1 Ethical Responsibilities to Clients 1.1 Priority of Clients' Interests 1.1.2, 1.1.6, 1.2- Demonstrating Cultural Awareness 1.2.1-1.2.5. 1.3 Promote Client Self-Determination and Informed Consent 1.3.1-1.3.6 1.4 Responsibilities to Involuntary Clients and Clients Not Capable of Consent 1.4.1-1.4.6</p> <p>4.0 Ethical Responsibilities to the Work Place 4.1.4</p> <p>8 Ethical Responsibilities to Society 8.1 Source of Information on Social Needs 8.1.1. 8.2 Participate in Social Action -8.2.1-8.2.5, 8.5 Advocate for the Environment -8.5.1</p> | <p>19 Guidelines</p> <p>Guideline statements align with the CFP statements and describe specific behaviours that support guiding principles for ethical practice in promoting social justice.</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 2.1 (2.1.1-2.1.8)</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 2.2 (2.2.1-2.2.2)</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 2.3 (2.3.1-2.3.3)</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 2.4 (2.4.1-2.4.6)</p> | <p>For ease of use and application Applies terms and theory that are currently relevant to the profession. Revisions were focused on Thematic Foci areas (bolded) and were clustered accordingly. GP 2.1 ties together social justice, service users' rights to equitable access and freedom from oppression and racism.</p> <p>The Guidelines focus on social workers advocating for organizational changes in policies and systems that are discriminatory or racist. Guidelines under the new GP 2.2 focus on advocating for changes in discriminatory policies and components of systems including programs and legislation.</p> |

Value 3

| Guiding Principles, Context for Practice and Guidelines | 2005 Code of Ethics and 2005 Guidelines for Practice | 2024 Code of Ethics | Rational for Revision(s) |
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| Value Statement | Not applicable | Pursuing Truth and Reconciliation | This new value speaks to the evolution on social work that emanates from both historical and contemporary social justice issues and Indigenous advocacy. |
| Guiding Principles | Not applicable | 2 Guiding Principles include: 3.1 Social workers uphold the values and principles of reconciliation. 3.2 Social workers acknowledge Indigenous world views in their practice. | Guiding principles were created to guide social workers about upholding the principles of reconciliation and incorporating Indigenous world views in their practice when working with Indigenous people. This new value emphasizes the social worker's responsibility to respect First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples. treaty, constitutional, human rights, and their rights to self-governance consistent with applicable treaty rights and legislation. |
| Context for Practice | Context for Practice | Not applicable | CFP statements supplement each guiding principle and provides additional information on how providing competent professional services is applied in practice. |
| Guidelines | Guidelines | Not applicable | 10 Guidelines Guideline statements align with the CFP statements and describe specific behaviours that support guiding |

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| | | | <p>principles for ethical practice with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 3.1 (3.1.1-3.1.6)</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 3.2 (3.2.1-3.2.4)</p> |
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Value 4

| Guiding Principles, Context for Practice and Guidelines | 2005 Code of Ethics and 2005 Guidelines for Practice | 2024 Code of Ethics | Rational for Revision(s) |
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| Value Statement | Service to Humanity (Value 3) | Valuing Human Relationships | Action verb added to emphasize behaviours that will follow from implementing the value. |
| Guiding Principles | <p>4 Underlying Principles Social workers place the needs of others above self-interest when acting in a professional capacity.</p> <p>Social workers strive to use the power and authority vested in them as professionals in responsible ways that serve the needs of clients and the promotion of social justice.</p> <p>Social workers promote individual development and</p> | <p>2 Guiding Principles 4.1: Social workers place the well-being and interests of all people at the centre of their relationships.</p> <p>4.2: Social workers continually develop self awareness and practise self-reflection to guide their practice and personal well-being.</p> | <p>Revisions reflect contemporary social work practice and knowledge.</p> <p>GP4.1 and 4.2 together emphasize the connection between client centred practice and self-awareness, reflective practice and self care.</p> |

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| | <p>pursuit of individual goals, as well as the development of a just society.</p> <p>Social workers use their knowledge and skills in bringing about fair resolutions to conflict and in assisting those affected by conflict.</p> | | |
| Context for Practice | <p>Not included, a preamble is included to explain each value</p> | <p>CFP statements supplement each guiding principle and provides additional information on how providing competent professional services is applied in practice.</p> | <p>Uses contemporary language and incorporates issues and concerns faced by social workers..</p> <p>Themes in CfP statements include:</p> <p>4.1: Social workers view all people as unique and cultivate positive professional relationships with service users and colleagues</p> <p>4.2: Social workers practice self-reflection and self-care, are self aware and seek supervision to guide their practice.</p> |
| Guidelines | <p>15 Guidelines. Organized in companion document to the Code as ‘common areas of social work practice’ as noted below.</p> <p>1.0 Ethical Responsibilities to Clients, 1.1 Priority of Client Interests 1.1.1-1.1.3, 1.1.5. 1.8 Practices for Termination or Interruption of Services- 1.8.5</p> | <p>8 Guidelines</p> <p>Guideline statements align with the Context for Practice Statements and describe specific behaviours that support guiding principles for ethical practice in professional relationships.</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 4.1 (4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4)</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 4.2 (4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4)</p> | <p>Guidelines are higher level and less prescriptive. Revisions were focused on Thematic Foci areas (bolded) and were clustered accordingly.</p> <p>4.1.1 and 4.1.4 outline behaviours that demonstrate respect for service users and colleagues, self reflective practice and self-care including seeking services to address vicarious trauma.</p> |

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| | 3.0 Ethical Responsibilities to Colleagues 3.1, Respect 3.2 Collaboration and Consultation 3.2.1-3.2.5, 3.3 Management of Disputes, 3.3.1 | | 4.2.1-4.2.4 outline behaviours that demonstrate self-awareness, self reflection practice and self-care. |
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Value 5

| Guiding Principles, Context for Practice and Guidelines | 2005 Code of Ethics and 2005 Guidelines for Practice | 2024 Code of Ethics | Rational for Revision(s) |
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| Value Statement | Integrity in Professional Practice (Value 4) | Preserving Integrity in Professional Practice | Action verb added to emphasize behaviours that will follow from implementing the value. |
| Guiding Principles | <p>4 Underlying Principles are: Social workers demonstrate and promote the qualities of honesty, reliability, impartiality and diligence in their professional practice. Social workers demonstrate and promote the qualities of honesty, reliability, impartiality and diligence in their professional practice.</p> <p>Social workers demonstrate adherence to the values and ethical principles of the profession and promote respect for the profession's</p> | <p>4 Guiding Principles are:</p> <p>5.1: Social workers act with integrity, are honest, responsible, trustworthy, and accountable.</p> <p>5.2: Social Workers maintain appropriate professional boundaries with service users.</p> <p>5.3: Social workers are aware of the potential for conflicts of interest and avoid situations where their personal interests may interfere with their professional obligations.</p> | <p>Language is more action oriented and address contemporary issues in the profession.</p> <p>Accountability is included as a component of integrity in professional practice.</p> <p>Identifies membership in the provincial or territorial regulatory body as a means to public protection.</p> <p>5.2 – 5.3 addresses ethical issues related to maintaining professional boundaries and avoiding conflict of interest.</p> <p>GP 5.4 focuses on private practitioner's business practices.</p> |

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| | <p>values and principles in organizations where they work or with which they have a professional affiliation.</p> <p>Social workers establish appropriate boundaries in relationships with clients and ensure that the relationship serves the needs of clients.</p> <p>Social workers value openness and transparency in professional practice and avoid relationships where their integrity or impartiality may be compromised, ensuring that should a conflict of interest be unavoidable, the nature of the conflict is fully disclosed.</p> | <p>5.4: Social workers in private practice act with integrity in all business practices.</p> | <p>The issue is addressed in the Guidelines for Ethical Practice as a common area of practice. The new Code elevates the issue to a Guiding Principle and focuses on business practices.</p> |
| <p>Context for Practice</p> | <p>Not included, a preamble is included to explain each value</p> | <p>CFP statements supplement each guiding principle and provides additional information on how providing competent professional services is applied in practice.</p> | <p>Themes in CFPs include: Social workers are to maintain a high level of professional conduct with service users and colleagues, uphold the Code of Ethics and be accountable to the public through registration with a regulatory body. Social workers are responsible to set and maintain professional boundaries and are to avoid any form of exploitation of service users.</p> |

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| <p>Guidelines</p> | <p>43 Guidelines apply to this value. Organized in companion document to the Code as ‘common areas of social work practice’ as noted below.</p> <p>2.0: Ethical Responsibilities in Professional Relationships, 2.1.1, 2.2- 2.2.1-2.2.2, 2.3- 2.3.1-2.3.3, 2.4- 2.4.1, 2.5- 2.5.1, 2.6-2.6.1, 2.6.2, 2.7,</p> <p>4.0 Ethical Responsibilities to the Workplace. 4.1- 4.1.1- 4.1.7, 4.3- 4.3.1,</p> <p>5.0 Ethical Responsibilities in Private Practice. 5.1 – 5.1.1, 5.2- 5.2.1-5.2.2, 5.3- 5.3.1- 5.3.4</p> <p>7.0 Ethical Responsibilities to the Profession, 7.1 Maintain and Enhance Reputation of Profession- 7.1.1-7.1.8. 7.2 Address Unethical Practices of Colleagues- 7.2.1-7.2.4, 7.3 Support Regulatory Practices - 7.3.1-7.3.3</p> | <p>23 Guidelines</p> <p>Guideline statements align with the Context for Practice Statements and describe specific behaviours that support guiding principles for ethical practice in upholding professional integrity and accountability.</p> <p>Guidelines statements under 5.1 (5.1.1-5.1.6)</p> <p>Guideline statements under 5.2 (5.2.1-5.2.6)</p> <p>Guideline statements under 5.3 (5.3.1-5.3.2)</p> <p>Guideline statements under 5.4 (5.4.1-5.4.9)</p> | <p>Address contemporary issues and includes some of the guidelines in the 2005 companion document that are universal and relevant to contemporary practice.</p> <p>The guidelines focus on behaviours necessary to set and maintain professional boundaries, including refraining from communication with service users using social media for personal or non-work-related purposes and address several business practices that are to be addressed.</p> |
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Value 6

| Guiding Principles, Context for Practice and Guidelines | 2005 Code of Ethics and 2005 Guidelines for Practice | 2024 Code of Ethics | Rational for Revision(s) |
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| Value Statement | Confidentiality in Professional Practice (Value 5) | Maintaining Privacy and Confidentiality | Action verb added to emphasize behaviours that will follow from implementing the value. |
| Guiding Principles | <p>5 Underlying Principles include: Social workers respect the importance of the trust and confidence placed in the professional relationship by clients and members of the public.</p> <p>Social workers respect the client’s right to confidentiality of information shared in a professional context.</p> <p>Social workers only disclose confidential information with the informed consent of the client or permission of client’s legal representative.</p> <p>Social workers may break confidentiality and communicate client information without permission when required or</p> | <p>5 Guiding Principles include: 6.1 Social workers uphold the interests of service users, members of the public, and other professionals in developing and safeguarding the trust placed in the confidential relationship.</p> <p>6.2 Social workers respect the right to confidentiality of information shared and documented in a professional context.</p> <p>6.3 Social workers are transparent about the limits of confidentiality in their professional practice.</p> <p>6.4 Social workers disclose confidential information with valid consent in accordance with applicable legislation or without consent when required by law or court order or allowed by legislation.</p> | <p>Guiding principles written at a higher level; encompassing the main underlying principles from the 2005 version. Emphasis is on information documented in the professional context; limits of confidentiality and considerations related to privacy and confidentiality when providing electronic social work services. Address the contemporary ethical issues related to use of online social work services including e-therapies and use of social media.</p> |

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| | <p>permitted by relevant laws, court order or this Code.</p> <p>Social workers demonstrate transparency with respect to limits to confidentiality that apply to their professional practice by clearly communicating these limitations to clients early in their relationship.</p> | <p>6.5 Social workers preserve privacy and confidentiality in the provision of electronic social work services.</p> | |
| Context for Practice | <p>Not included, a preamble is included to explain each value</p> | <p>CFP statements supplement each guiding principle and provides additional information on how providing competent professional services is applied in practice.</p> | <p>Themes in CFPs address the rights of service users related to information shared with third parties, right to privacy and confidentiality of information in official written or electronic records, and the limits of confidentiality across all contexts.</p> <p>The CFPs address self-determination, valid consent, and disclosure of confidential information and implications of privacy and confidentiality related to the use of technology in service provision.</p> |
| Guidelines | <p>36 Guidelines in the companion document to the Code apply to this value as noted below.</p> <p>1.0 Ethical Responsibilities to Clients – 1.1 Priority of Clients’ Interests: 1.1.4, 1.1.5.</p> | <p>41 Guidelines</p> <p>Guideline statements align with the CFP statements and describe specific behaviours that support guiding principles for ethical practice in the provision of private and confidential services.</p> | <p>Revisions were focused on Thematic Foci areas (bolded) and were clustered accordingly.</p> <p>The Guidelines emphasize the behaviours that demonstrate respect for the trust and confidence placed in the confidential relationship, address contemporary issues pertaining to preserving</p> |

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| | <p>1.2 Demonstrate Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity: 1.2.5., 1.3 Promote Client Self-Determination and Informed Consent: 1.3.4 (bullet #2, 6, 7); 1.3.6. 1.4 Responsibilities to Involuntary Clients and Clients Not Capable of Consent: 1.4.4. 1.5 Protect Privacy and Confidentiality: 1.5.1 to 1.5.13. 1.6 Protection of Vulnerable Members of Society: 1.6.2, 1.6.3 (in part, last sentence). 1.7 Maintenance and Handling of Client Records: 1.7.2 to 1.7.9.</p> <p>3.0 Ethical Responsibilities to Colleagues – 3.5 Responsibilities to Students: 3.5.6.</p> <p>7.0 Ethical Responsibilities to the Profession – 7.3 Support Regulatory Practices: 7.3.2.</p> | <p>Guideline statements under GP 6.1 (6.1.1 to 6.1.7).</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 6.2 (6.2.1 to 6.2.9).</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 6.3 (6.3.1 to 6.3.7).</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 6.4 (6.4.1 to 6.4.11)</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 6.5 (6.5.1 to 6.5.7).</p> | <p>confidentiality and privacy in the provision of electronic social work services.</p> <p>6.1.1 to 6.1.7 - Outline behaviours that demonstrate respect for the trust and confidence placed in the confidential relationship.</p> <p>6.2.1 to 6.2.9 – Outline behaviours that demonstrate how social workers uphold people’s right to privacy and confidentiality of information shared and documented.</p> <p>6.3.1 to 6.3.7 – Outline the limits to privacy and confidentiality and social workers’ responsibilities in relation to those limits.</p> <p>6.4.1 to 6.4.7 – Outline how social workers support self-determination rights related to disclosure of confidential information,</p> <p>6.4.8 to 6.4.11 – Outline the responsibilities and limits when disclosing private and confidential information.</p> <p>6.5.1 to 6.5.7 – Outline how social workers preserve privacy and confidentiality in the delivery of electronic services.</p> |
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Value 7

| Guiding Principles, Context for Practice and Guidelines | 2005 Code of Ethics and 2005 Guidelines for Practice | 2024 Code of Ethics | Rational for Revision(s) |
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| Value Statement | Competence in Professional Practice (Value 6) | Providing Competent Professional Services | Action verb added to emphasize behaviours that will follow from implementing the value. |
| Guiding Principles | <p>5 Underlying Principles include:</p> <p>Social workers uphold the right of clients to be offered the highest quality service possible.</p> <p>Social workers strive to maintain and increase their professional knowledge and skill.</p> <p>Social workers demonstrate due care for client’s interests and safety by limiting professional practice to areas of demonstrated competence.</p> <p>Social workers contribute to the ongoing development of the profession and its ability to serve humanity, where possible, by participating in the development of current and future social workers and</p> | <p>4 Guiding Principles are:</p> <p>7.1 Social workers continuously develop their professional knowledge and skill at the level required to provide competent professional services.</p> <p>7.2 Social workers practice within their level of competence and seek appropriate guidance when services required are beyond their competence.</p> <p>7.3 Social workers contribute to the ongoing development of the social work profession and current and future social workers.</p> <p>7.4 Social workers contribute to the knowledge base and advancement of knowledge in the social work profession.</p> | Guiding principles written at a higher level; encompassing the main underlying principles from the 2005 version. Specific details related to the conduct of research with human subjects (e.g., risks to participants, informed consent, confidentiality, and the reporting of results) are outlined in the 2024 guideline statements. |

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| | <p>the development of new professional knowledge.</p> <p>Social workers who engage in research minimize risks to participants, ensure informed consent, maintain confidentiality, and accurately report the results of their studies.</p> | | |
| Context for Practice | <p>Not included a preamble is included to explain each value</p> | <p>CFP statements supplement each guiding principle and provides additional information on how providing competent professional services is applied in practice.</p> | <p>Themes in CFPs include:</p> <p>7.1 Life-long learning, professional development, self-reflection, evidence-informed inclusive service provision.</p> <p>7.2 Limiting practice to areas of competence, consulting resources when beyond competence and making appropriate referrals.</p> <p>7.3 Roles (e.g., supervisory, consultative, mentorship, education) that contribute to ongoing development of the social work profession.</p> <p>7.4 Ethical considerations when conducting research with human participants and when engaged in non-research activities.</p> |
| Guidelines | <p>50 Guidelines apply to this value. Guidelines are organized in companion document to the Code as ‘common areas of social work practice’ in terms of Social Work Responsibilities:</p> | <p>30 Guidelines</p> <p>Guideline statements align with the Context for Practice Statements and describe specific behaviours that support guiding principles for ethical practice in providing competent services.</p> | <p>Revisions were focused on Thematic Foci areas (bolded) and were clustered accordingly.</p> <p>7.1.1 to 7.1.8 - Outline behaviours that supports the provision of competent professional services.</p> |

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| | <p>10 Ethical Responsibilities to Clients – 1.8 Practices for Termination or Interruption of Services: 1.8.5.</p> <p>3.0 Ethical Responsibilities to Colleagues – 3.2 Collaboration and Consultation: 3.2.1 to 3.2.5. 3.4 Responsibilities in Supervision and Consultation: 3.4.1. 3.5 Responsibilities to Students: 3.5.1 to 3.5.5; 3.5.7, 3.5.8.</p> <p>4.0 Ethical Responsibilities to the Workplace – 4.1 Professional Practice: 4.1.2. 4.3 Responsibilities of Managers: 4.3.4, 4.3.5.</p> <p>6.0 Ethical Responsibilities in Research – 6.1 Responsible Research Practices: 6.1.1, 6.1.2. 6.2 Minimize Risks: 6.2.1 to 6.2.6. 6.3 Informed Consent, Anonymity and Confidentiality: 6.3.1 to 6.3.4. 6.4 Avoid Deception: 6.4.1, 6.4.2. 6.5 – Accuracy of Report of Research Findings: 6.5.1 to 6.5.3.</p> | <p>Guideline statements under GP 7.1 (7.1.1 to 7.1.8).</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 7.2 (7.2.1 to 7.2.4).</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 7.3 (7.3.1 to 7.3.4).</p> <p>Guideline statements under GP 7.4 (7.4.1 to 7.4.2).</p> | <p>7.2.1 to 7.2.4 - Outline how social workers demonstrate concern for the interest and safety of service users through professional competence.</p> <p>7.3.1 to 7.3.4 - Outline behaviours that contribute to the ongoing development of the social work profession.</p> <p>7.4.1 to 7.4.2 - Outline general behaviours that contribute to the knowledge base and advancement of knowledge of the profession.</p> <p>7.4.3 – 7.4.14 – Outline specific expectations when engaging in research activities involving human subjects, which are guided by the Canadian TCPS 2 guidelines; differentiates between research and non-research activities.</p> |
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| | <p>7.0 Ethical Responsibilities to the Profession: 7.1.1 to 7.1.6. 7.2 Address Unethical Practices of Colleagues: 7.2.2.</p> <p>8.0 Ethical Responsibilities to Society 8.1 Source of Information on Social Needs</p> | | |
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