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Test Bank

The Helping Professional's Guide to Ethics: A New Perspective

Chapter 1: The Basics of Moral Theory, Professional Codes of Ethics, and Professional Ideals

Multiple Choice (Choose the best answer):

1. The Code of Ethics is grounded in which core values:

a. Social Justice, Inherent Worth and Dignity, Mutuality, Faith, Free Enterprise, Hospitality
b. Integrity, Service, Competence, the Importance of Human Relationships, Social Justice, Inherent Worth and Dignity
c. Service, Social Justice, Peace, Liberty, Generosity, Humility
d. Inherent Worth and Dignity, Utility, Competence, Service, Human Relations, Social Justice

answer: b

2. There are _____ standards in the 1996 version of the NASW Code of Ethics.

a. 50
b. 12
c. 95
d. 155

answer: d

3. The first major work that promoted the development of professional values in social work was published by:

a. Fred Reamer
b. Bernard Gert
c. Muriel Pumphrey
d. Lola Sanders

answer: c

4. The first official code of ethics for social work was adopted in:

a. 1960
b. 1925
c. 1996
d. 1937

answer: a

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5. One historical event, noted by the authors that contributed to dramatic changes in codes of ethics during the 1960's and 1980's was:

a. the 1960's peace movement
b. the Vietnam war.
c. Nixon's Watergate scandal
d. the Tuskegee Syphilis Study

answer: d

6. The conceptual framework as principlism:

a. originated from the ethical ideals articulated in the 1979 Belmont Report
b. argues that core ethical values such as: respect for persons, justice, and beneficience should form the theoretical basis for ethical decision-making
c. was first proposed by philosopher Bernard Gert
d. both a and b

answer: both a and b

7. The moral theory that emphasizes promoting the greatest good for the most number is:

a. Common Morality
b. Principlism
c. Deontology
d. Utilitarianism

answer: d

8. Deontology

a. Considers the weighing of consequences an important component of ethical decision-making.
b. argues that consequences are irrelevant to making moral decisions.
c. originated in a school of dentistry.
d. was originally developed by the work of Thomas Aquinas.

answer: b

9. Both Deontology and Utilitarianism

a. have influenced the articulation of core values within professions, even though fundamentally, they are at odds with one another.
b. are great conversation starters at large social gatherings
c. have influenced the development and implementation of key social welfare policies.
d. have had little influence on ethical decision-making within the professions.

answer: a

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10. The authors in chapter one, ultimately argue that:

a. ethical principles and their derived values are the best means of promoting sound ethical decision-making practices.
b. the use of ethical principles, though useful for educating students on the common goals of one's profession is inherently problematic for promoting competent ethical decision-making.
c. following one's code of ethics is the best way to develop sound ethical decision-making practices.
d. social workers and other helping professionals are best served by relying primarily on their "gut" for sound ethical decision-making practices.

Answer: b

11. Chapter one summarizes several ethical decision-making strategies that have been put forth by the profession over the last few decades. One common theme (according to the authors) in all of these approaches it that:

a. they are boring.
b. they are value laden.
c. they are all created by people whose last name begins with M.
d. they dictate a utilitarian approach.

answer: b

12. According to the text values

a. are agreed on by all
b. are informed by experiences, religious beliefs, politics, and other sources
c. are the actions we take in response to moral rules.
d. are the best means by which professionals make ethical decisions.

answer: b

13. According to the authors, one of the aims of ethics education is to:

a. expose students to the profession's core values that inform what one ought to do.
b. enhance student memory of the history of ethical decision-making
c. cultivate ethical decision-making abilities
d. both a and c.

answer: d

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14. A good deontologist

a. always encourages brushing and flossing after every meal.
b. would never lie.
c. may lie depending on the circumstances.
d. believes that the ends justify the means.

answer: b

15. The example of a social worker withholding information about a medically fragile child to a potential adoptive family in order to increase the likelihood of the adoption taking place illustrates:

a. how withholding information is not the same as lying
b. the importance of knowledge informing practice.
c. the use of evidence based practice
d. how one's application of values can be used to inappropriately justify being deceitful.

answer: d

Possible Short Answer / Essay Questions.

1. Briefly describe the influences that contributed to the articulation and use of ethical principles as the predominant framework for ethical decision-making in the profession.

2. Briefly describe Deontology and Utilitarinism. What core social work values are derived from these moral theories? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each theory?

Chapter 2 Moral Development and Ethical Decision-Making in Social Work Practice

1. According to the text, some research on ethical decision-making among social workers has:

a. proven the effectiveness of the profession's Code of Ethics in resolving ethical dilemmas.
b. raised questions about the effectiveness of the profession's Code of Ethics in helping to resolve ethical dilemmas.
c. indicated that social workers, more often than not, rely on their "gut" or intuition to make ethical decisions.
d. both b and c

answer: d

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APPENDIX II

CASES

These cases can be used for discussions or assignments. They include cases specifically used in the Instructors' Manual along additional cases that may be used instead of, or in addition to these. Several cases have suggested exercises/assignments, others may be used at the instructor's discretion.

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RICHARD, FOSTER CARE WORKER

Richard is working in a public child welfare agency in therapeutic foster care. Several of his 'kids' have been assessed by the University team of social workers, psychiatrists, and psychologists. Recommendations put forward by the team for one of the children—a fourteen-year-old boy---means returning the child to his mom who is recovering from cocaine and alcohol addiction. She has a history of getting into abusive relationships with men. Richard knows the boy loves his mom, but he has known the mother for years. Richard ignores the team's report and is sure that keeping the child in the foster home (a good place he believes) is in the boy's best interest.

Is Richard doing anything wrong? Is he behaving unethically?

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CARLOS

Carlos is a 25-year-old Mexican American man. He lives with his mother. You have known Carlos for a number of years through your work with both the county mental health and public health centers. Carlos is poly substance abuser who has been seeing you for outpatient services, post detox, for a little over three months. Prior to this detox, Carlos' history has shown numerous relapses in which he has openly admitted sharing needles.

Carlos has had little formal education, has a fifth-grade reading level and does not seem to understand the importance of his medical condition. He often says it is more an occasional nuisance than anything else.

Since you have been seeing Carlos, he has admitted to missing 4 medical appointments. He says it was because he felt fine and therefore did not need to come in. Once, when he had strep throat, he stated he did not need to "finish the pills" because the antibiotics were no longer necessary once his symptoms disappeared. However, he has not missed a single appointment with you and has been regularly attending 12 step meetings, saying the people he's met there are very nice.

Dr. Martinez, Carlos' physician, calls you to tell you that Medicaid will pay for Carlo's HIV combination medication therapies. However, Dr. Martinez is not sure Carlos can stick to the strict treatment regimen or that he can abstain from further drug use. Dr. Martinez asks you to evaluate Carlos' appropriateness for initiating HIV combination therapies. As has happened with every patient you share with Dr. Martinez, she stresses to you the importance of strict compliance to the treatment regimen. Dr. Martinez reminded you that lack of strict adherence could lead to drug resistance to an entire class of drug treatments and potentially create a public health disaster through the spread of a treatment resistant viral strain to others.

After your conversation with Dr. Martinez, you decide to include a home visit as part of your assessment of Carlos. As you enter Carlos's house, you see some suspicious looking plants and ask Carlos about them. He openly admits he is growing marijuana and smokes some daily because it stimulates his appetite. He says it is the only thing that works and that the doctor told him it was important not to lose weight. He cannot afford to buy it, so he grows it for his own use.

Carlos, by Laura E. Kaplan, PhD LCSW ©2020 *Crediting the author is required when using this case. This work is licensed under a CC BY 4.0 license.*

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