


**THE 2017 NASW
CODE OF
ETHICS:
UPDATING
YOUR POLICIES
AND PRACTICES**


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AGENDA


Substantive Changes

- ✓ Technology
- ✓ Confidentiality
- ✓ Culture
- ✓ Disability



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**TECHNOLOGY:
PREAMBLE**



- Examples of Tech
- Examples of Uses of Tech
- SW With or Without Tech – Equal footing
- Aspirational – Baseline Standards

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**TECHNOLOGY:
INFORMED CONSENT 1.03**

1.03(e) – SWs to discuss policies re tech in provision of services
 1.03(f) - Requires consent re use of tech from outset of services; also, evaluate capacity to consent, verify identity and location of client
 1.03(g) – Assess client ability to access and use tech; provide alternatives if needed
 1.03(h) – Minor amendment – audio/video “taping” – now “recording”
 1.03(j) – Obtain client consent PRIOR to electronic search on client (unless compelling professional reasons)

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**TECHNOLOGY:
COMPETENCE 1.04**


1.04(d) – Competence includes ability to use tech competently
 1.04(e) – SWs to ensure compliance with laws where SW is regulated and located, and where client is located



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**TECHNOLOGY:
1.05(D) CULTURE**

1.05(d) – SWs to be aware of, assess, and respond to cultural, environmental, economic, ability, linguistic, and other social diversity factors re use of tech



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**TECHNOLOGY:
CONFLICT OF INTEREST – 1.06**

1.06(e) – Discourages social workers from communicating with clients using technology for personal or non-work-related purposes.

1.06(f) – SWs should be aware that posting personal information on professional websites or other media could cause boundary confusion, inappropriate dual relationships, or harm to clients.

1.06(g) – SWs should be aware clients may discover personal information about them based on their personal affiliations and use of social media.

1.06(h) - SWs should avoid accepting requests from or engaging in personal relationships with clients on social networks or other electronic media.

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**TECHNOLOGY:
CONFIDENTIALITY – 1.07**

1.07(f) – Amended – When counseling families/couples/groups – agreement to include whether confidential information shared in person or electronically may be shared

1.07(m) – Amended – Old version instructed SWs to avoid transmitting any identifying information electronically; New provision permits transmission of identifying information, but advises social workers to take reasonable steps to protect the confidentiality of electronic communications, including information provided to clients or third parties.

1.07(n) – SWs to develop and disclose policies and procedures for notifying clients of any breach of confidential information in a timely manner.

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**TECHNOLOGY:
CONFIDENTIALITY – 1.07**

1.07(o) – SWs to inform clients of unauthorized access to the social worker’s electronic communication or storage systems, consistent with other laws and applicable standards

1.07(p) – SWs to develop and inform clients re policies on use of tech to gather information about clients

1.07(q) – SWs discouraged from searching or gathering client information electronically unless there are compelling professional reasons, and, when appropriate, with the client’s informed consent

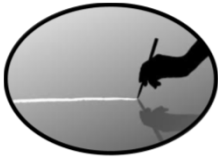
1.07(r) – SWs workers should avoid posting identifying or confidential information about clients on professional websites or other forms of social media (if client consents, must be fully informed)

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TECHNOLOGY:
SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS - 1.09 AND 2.06


1.09 (with Clients) – Amended to prohibit “inappropriate sexual communications,” in addition to sexual activities and contact with clients.

2.06 – (re Supervisors, Educators, Colleagues) – Also, amended by adding electronic contact



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TECHNOLOGY:
SEXUAL HARASSMENT – 1.11 & 2.08




1.11 (to Clients)
 2.08 (to Colleagues) – Amended, adding “written” and “electronic” contact.

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TECHNOLOGY:
DEROGATORY LANGUAGE - 1.12


1.12 Amended, adding “electronic” to the forms of communication (including electronically transmitted photos, videos, or other communications).



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TECHNOLOGY:
INTERRUPTION OF SERVICES – 1.15

1.15 - Amended, adding "disruptions in electronic communication" as a possible concern social workers should be prepared to address.




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TECHNOLOGY:
UNETHICAL CONDUCT OF COLLEAGUES – 2.10

2.10(a) [formerly 2.11(a)] - Amended to clarify that social workers need to take adequate measures to discourage, expose, and correct the unethical conduct of colleagues, "including unethical conduct using technology."

Standard 2.10(a) [formerly 2.11(a)] - Amended to update name of the committee responsible for professional review, the NASW National Ethics Committee.



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TECHNOLOGY:
SUPERVISION AND CONSULTATION – 3.01


3.01(a) – Amended to note standards for supervisor or consultation apply "whether in-person or remotely."

3.01(c) – Amended to note dual relationships in supervisory relationships may arise in the context of "using social networking or other electronic media."

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TECHNOLOGY:
EDUCATION & TRAINING – 3.02

Standard 3.02(d) Amended to note dual relationships in educator-student relationships may arise in the context of "using social networking or other electronic media."



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TECHNOLOGY:
CLIENT RECORDS

Standard 3.04(a) - Amended to clarify documentation may be in electronic or paper forms.

Standard 3.04(d) - Amended to clarify that, when considering storage of client records, social worker should consider all "relevant laws, agency policies, and relevant contracts" (not just state laws and relevant contracts).

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TECHNOLOGY:
EVALUATION & RESEARCH 5.02

5.02(f) - Advises SWs using tech to facilitate evaluation or research to obtain clients' informed consent for the use of tech. It also encourages social workers to assess clients' ability to use the technology and, when appropriate, offer reasonable alternatives.

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CULTURE – 1.05

Heading – “Cultural Competence and Social Diversity”

Changed to “Cultural Awareness and Social Diversity”

Other: Cultural Humility, Responsiveness...

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CONFIDENTIALITY – 1.07

1.07(a) – Amended so SWs should not solicit information from our about clients except for “compelling professional reasons.”

1.07(c) Removed the term “identifiable person” so now, an exception to confidentiality arises when “disclosure of confidential information is necessary to prevent serious, foreseeable, and imminent harm to a client or others.”

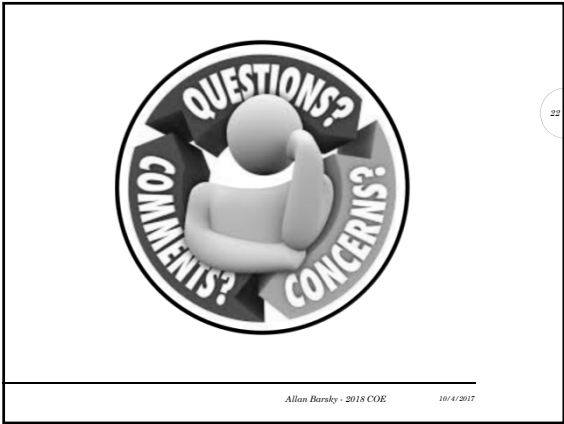
1.07(s) – Amended – “State statutes” – changed to “applicable laws”

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DISABILITY

- Changed “disability” to “ability” throughout Code
- Includes various physical, psychological, and social abilities (spectrum)

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NOTE ALSO

*2017 Practice Standards on
Social Work and Technology
(on NASW Website, along
with CSWE, ASWB, CSWA)*

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