

The Ethics of Practice with Minors

Program Description

Social workers and other professionals in child-serving settings strive to meet serious human needs in an often fragmented and frustrating social service environment. Every day, in schools, hospitals, child protective, residential and other settings, a delicate balancing act takes place between the constraints of policies and resources and the needs of clients. In addition to providing services that are clinically sound and responsive to their clients, workers must also be attuned to the ethical dimensions their cases present. How can they uphold principles such as confidentiality, informed consent and self-determination with a clientele whose rights and choices are constrained by age, maturity, and legal and parental prerogatives?

This workshop addresses the strategies helping professionals can use to bridge those tensions, to deliver effective, ethical services. Participants will learn about ethical decision making, explore the practice norms associated with various child-serving settings, and apply ethical, legal, and practice standards to work with minors.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Understand the ABCDE Model for making ethical decisions;
2. Understand how to distinguish legal responsibilities to minors from ethical and clinical responsibilities;
3. Appreciate the ways that agency norms and minors' developmental stages affect the application of ethical concepts;
4. Demonstrate ethical decision making using the ABCDE Model of Ethical Decision Making;
5. Be familiar with the resources for learning more about dilemmas in this domain of practice.

Target Audience

Clinicians, case managers, social workers, counselors, psychiatrists, psychologists, educators, advocates, health and human service practitioners

Contact Hours

Up to 4 hours

Program Agenda

Available upon request.

Faculty

Dr. Kim Strom is the Smith P. Theimann, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Professional Practice at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work. Dr. Strom teaches in the areas of direct practice, education, and human resource management. Her scholarly interests involve ethics, moral courage, and social work education. She is the former chair of the National Association of Social Workers' National Committee on Inquiry and is active in training, consultation and research on ethics and social work practice. She has written over 60 articles, monographs and chapters on ethics and practice. She is the author of *Straight Talk about Professional Ethics* and *The Ethics of Practice with Minors: High Stakes and Hard Choices* and the forthcoming text *Cultivating Courage*. Dr. Strom-Gottfried is also the co-author of the texts *Best of Boards*, *Direct Social Work Practice* and *Teaching Social Work Values and Ethics: A Curriculum Resource*. Dr. Strom also held an appointment as the UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities Associate Director for the Academic Leadership Program, which helps prepare and support the next generation of academic leaders. Currently, she serves as Principal Investigator of the UNC School of Social Work behavioral healthcare contract, and has been recently appointed by the chancellor to serve as Director of the UNC - Chapel Hill Office of Ethics Education and Policy Management.