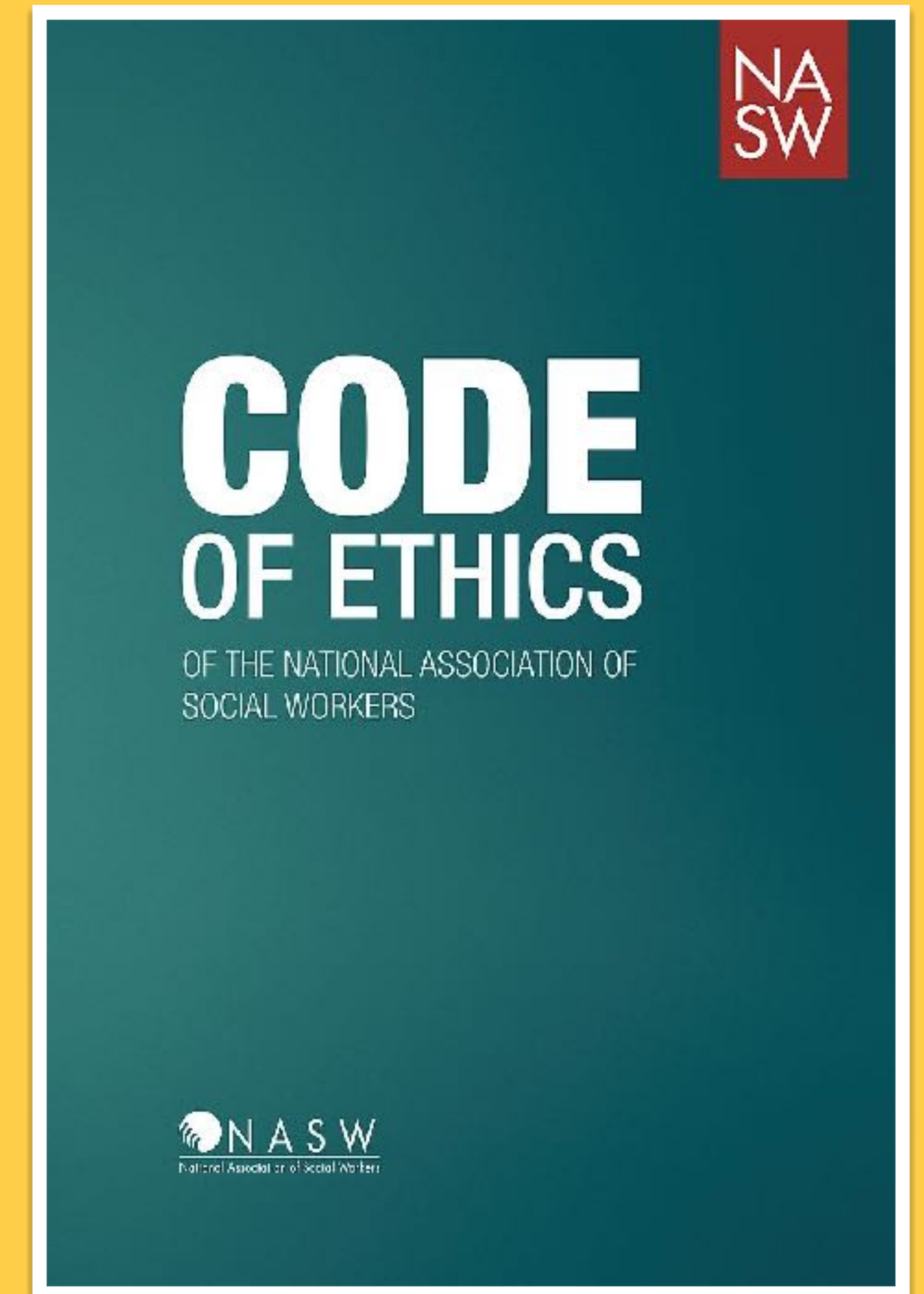


Getting Started with Our Code of Ethics and Values in Social Work

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SOWK 430 Fall 2026 at Heritage



Week 5 Plan

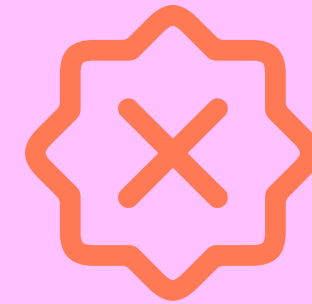
Agenda

- **Icebreaking Activities**
- **Considering Values as a Social Worker**
- **Practice Applying Standards**

Learning Objectives

- Develop connectedness within the program
- Apply the code of ethics to dilemmas.

Two Truths and a Lie



Share two things that are true and something else that sounds like it true. People will have to guess which is the lie

Continuum

What Side of the Line Are You On

Pineapple belongs on pizza.

It is okay to be ten minutes late to a meeting.

You should always tell a friend the
truth, even when it hurts.

Family members should care for elders at home
and not put them into nursing homes.

NASW Core Values

(National Association of Social Workers, 2021)

Ethical Principles

Service: Social workers' primary goal is to help people in need and to address social problems.

Social Justice: Social workers challenge social injustice.

Dignity and Worth of the Person: Social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person.

Importance of Human Relationships: Social workers recognize the central importance of human relationships.

Integrity: Social workers behave in a trustworthy manner

Competence: Social workers practice within their areas of competence and develop and enhance their professional expertise.

What is Included in the NASW Code of Ethics

The Major Sections

- **Preamble** – the mission statement and the six core values
- **Purpose of the Code** – what a code of ethics can and cannot do
- **Ethical Principles** – one broad principle for each core value, at a high level of abstraction
- **Ethical Standards** – the detailed section, in six categories, some enforceable and some aspirational

Standards Generally Cover:
Honest mistakes with ethical implications
Genuinely difficult decisions
Outright misconduct

(Reamer, 2023)

Ethics Case Scenarios Discussion Groups

Small Group Activity

- Divide into four groups
- Read the scenario
- Review the standards of practice in those relevant sections
- Discuss the questions at the end
- Report back about the scenario and discussion to the whole group

Scenarios Include:

Social Worker and Former Teacher
Practicing Outside Area of Competence
Former Client, Current Relationship
Friend Request from a Client

A value you hold near and dear to your heart

Share what it is and why, and post it on the poster at the front.