



# **MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY**

**REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER**

**SCHOOL OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL  
SCIENCES AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

**COURSE CODE: SWK 3233-1**

**COURSE TITLE: ETHICAL ISSUES IN SOCIAL WORK**

**DATE:04/6/24**

**TIME: 1100-1300HRS**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer Question **ONE** and any other **TWO** questions

*This paper consists of **THREE** printed pages. Please turn over.*

## **QUESTION ONE**

- a) Discuss the ethical responsibilities of social workers in addressing social justice issues and promoting equitable access to resources and services for marginalized populations. **(7 marks)**
- b) Assume that you are a practicing social worker, reflect on a situation where you found yourself facing the ethical challenge of maintaining appropriate professional boundaries with a client while also engaging in activities or relationships that could compromise these boundaries. Discuss the potential risks and ethical implications of boundary crossing and dual relationships in social work practice, and propose strategies to address and mitigate these risks while maintaining ethical integrity. **(7 marks)**
- c) Suppose you are a social worker at Maasai Mara University Health Unit. Describe a case where you encounter challenges obtaining informed consent from a client with compromised decision-making capacity due to mental health issues or cognitive impairments. **(6 marks)**

## **QUESTION TWO**

Susan Malaso is a social worker employed by a government agency that provides support services to individuals with disabilities. She is faced with a dilemma when a client, Sankok, expresses a desire to end his life due to his chronic illness and deteriorating health.

- a) Analyze the legal and ethical considerations involved in Susan Malaso's response to Sankok's request. **(5 marks)**
- b) Discuss the ethical implications of supporting or intervening in Sankok's decision-making process, taking into account the complexities of end-of-life care and the importance of respecting clients' wishes while ensuring their safety and well-being. **(5 marks)**
- c) Explore the role of interdisciplinary collaboration and consultation with legal and medical professionals in addressing ethical dilemmas in social work practice, particularly in cases involving complex legal and medical issues. **(5 marks)**

## **QUESTION THREE**

Discuss the relationship between ethics and morality in the context of social work practice **(15 marks)**

**OR**

As a social worker employed at Narok Teaching and Referral Hospital, you are confronted with an ethical dilemma involving patient confidentiality and duty to warn. One of your clients, a pregnant woman seeking prenatal care, discloses to you during a counseling session that she is experiencing domestic violence at the hands of her partner. She expresses fear for her safety and the well-being of her unborn child. While you recognize the importance of maintaining patient confidentiality, you also feel a duty to protect the client from harm. Describe how would address this ethical dilemma **(15 marks)**

#### **QUESTION FOUR**

- a) Explain the concept of informed consent and its significance in maintaining ethical boundaries and respecting clients' autonomy in social work practice. **(7 marks)**
- b) In view of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics, analyze the role of ethical codes and guidelines in regulating social work practice and ensuring accountability and professional integrity among practitioners **(8 marks)**

#### **QUESTION FIVE**

- a) Assume that you are a practicing social worker, describe a scenario where you encounter a conflict between maintaining client confidentiality and fulfilling your duty to report potential harm or danger to the client or others. **(8 marks)**
- b) From the scenario above, discuss the ethical principles and decision-making frameworks you would use to address this dilemma. **(7 marks)**

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