

SECTION II. MICRO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES – DIGNITY AND WORTH

NASW Competency	
Dignity and Worth	<p>Social workers are mindful of individual differences in thinking and behavior, as well as cultural and ethnic diversity. Only by treating each person with dignity and respect can social workers promote their clients' capacity and opportunity to address their own needs and improve their personal situations. Social workers must be cognizant of their duties to both individual clients and to society as a whole, and seek solutions for their clients that also support society's broader interests (Tulane University School of Social Work, 2023).</p> <p>Social workers seek to eliminate factors that threaten the dignity and worth of individuals, but they do so with a decentered approach that respects differences and honors self-determination. Rather than imposing their own values, social workers leverage the values of their clients and the communities they serve. (Tulane University School of Social Work, 2023).</p> <p>School social workers will work with students who are culturally and ethnically diverse. As the school social worker meets with students and begins to work with them, the social worker has a responsibility to treat clients with courtesy, consideration, respect. Achara's social worker must always be mindful of their own biases related to people who immigrate to the US, people who speak languages other than English, and people whose cultural traditions may be different from theirs. The social worker must ensure to listen fully and exhibit non-judgmental responses and behaviors to Achara's situation. The social worker may not totally understand Achara's experiences but demonstrating genuine empathy to Achara's story breeds trust in their developing relationship. The social worker may acknowledge Achara's bravery and courage to seek help in a complicated relationship with Achara's boyfriend.</p>

SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES – DIGNITY AND WORTH - MICRO PRACTICE ACTIVITY

NASW Core Principle: **Dignity and Worth of a Person**

Social workers treat each person in a caring and respectful fashion, mindful of individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers promote clients' socially responsible self-determination. Social workers seek to enhance clients' capacity and opportunity to change and to address their own needs. Social workers are cognizant of their dual responsibility to clients and to the broader society. They seek to resolve conflicts

between clients' interests and the broader society's interests in a socially responsible manner consistent with the values, ethical principles, and ethical standards of the profession.

Foundation Activity: Consider the NASW Core Principle above. To help Achara build her self-esteem, write two affirmative statements Achara can recite as her life mantras. One mantra can be articulated in the morning and the other in the evening. Cultural statements are a bonus.

IFSW Core Principle: RECOGNITION OF THE INHERENT DIGNITY OF HUMANITY

Social workers recognize and respect the inherent dignity and worth of all human beings in attitude, word, and deed. We respect all persons, but we challenge beliefs and actions of those persons who devalue or stigmatize themselves or other persons.

Advanced Activity: Consider the IFSW Core Principle above. As the social worker continues to converse with Su, Su begins to blame herself for Achara's situation. Su found a husband on an Online dating site and her baby sister followed in her footsteps. Su states she should have never brought Achara to live in the U.S. as she would be much happier if she were in Thailand with their parents. As a future social worker, in two or three sentences, state what you would say to Su, to 1) validate her feelings, 2) reassure her that this situation is not her fault, and 3) offer your assistance in getting Achara on a better path.
