

Social Work

by Report Report

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Social Work

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Professional social work relationships are built on confidentiality which is the primary guideline of their work. The code of ethics provides that client's information be treated with confidentiality and released under certain circumstances when the need to do so arises. In the course of their profession, social workers need to be aware that accountability to clients is a major aspect to be put into consideration. This element is vital since social work involves the sharing of information among different inter-disciplinary teams to ensure the provision of quality services to the client. Today, digital information technology systems have become common making the sharing of information crucial since it may be leaked to undesigned parties.

Advancements in information technology have helped the effectiveness of the sharing of information and its storage. However, the impacts of technology on the confidentiality and privacy of the shared information has been the primary concern for many clients. Within the age of technology, it is important for social work professionals to consider the issues related to confidentiality and privacy. The need for outside parties to access the client's information has increased the concerns of social work professionals to safeguard the information. However, legislations have laid down rules on how the clients' information ought to be treated to avoid the concerns of privacy and confidentiality (Horejsi et al. 2010).

The client's access to information grants them the opportunity to correct inaccuracies in their data as well as increasing trust in therapeutic relationships. Although agencies hold information on behalf of their clients, the ownership of the information and the power to manipulate it belongs to their clients. Also, social workers have the mandate to inform their clients on the way their information is stored, recorded as well as the purpose of the collected information. The purpose of the collection of the data is vital since multiple inter-disciplinary teams access it.

To ensure transparency between the clients and the agencies, the social work professionals need to discuss the mediums through which the information is shared as well as the appropriate measures put in place to safeguard the information. Above all, social workers should strive to maintain integrity in the course of their work to ensure that clients are satisfied with the offered services. Since the clients are the primary responsibilities, securing their information and obtaining it with their consent is a crucial aspect in their work. Ensuring confidentiality in the era of technological advancements is a challenging task. However, since technology is prone to involvement, social work professionals ought to educate themselves on the information technology to find out the appropriate ways in which to treat the information of the clients (Congress & McAuliffe, 2006).

Reference

Horejsi, C. R., Horejsi, G. A., & Sheafor, B. (2010). *Techniques and guidelines for social work practice*. Allyn and Bacon.

Congress, E., & McAuliffe, D. (2006). Social work ethics: Professional codes in Australia and the United States. *International Social Work*, 49(2), 151-164.

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