

Ethics Scenario 1

A school social worker provided services to a 12-year-old boy. The boy's mother told the social worker that the boy seemed to be struggling with sexual orientation issues. The mother asked the social worker to keep this information confidential. One week later, the principal stopped by the social worker's office and mentioned that she had received a complaint from another student that the social worker's client had harassed the other student. The principal wanted to know "what was going on" with the social worker's client and asked to see the social worker's notes. The social worker explained that she is not allowed to disclose confidential information without the mother's consent. The principal insisted the social worker share whatever relevant information she had about her client.

Ethics Scenario 2

A child is referred to a group with a school social worker for students identified as needing social skills training and emotional management skills. The person overseeing the group stated that the social worker running the group does not need a consent because the group is conducted during school and is educational.

Ethics Scenario 3

A social worker provides counseling to a 16-year-old girl experiencing significant emotional turmoil. The girl's parents were divorcing. During one session, the girl told the social worker that she just found out that she is six weeks pregnant. The girl said that she wanted to terminate the pregnancy, but refused to give permission to the social worker to share the news with her parents.

Ethics Scenario 4

A social worker referred a family to an educational consultant to help the family locate a specialized school for their son who had behavioral challenges and academic difficulties. The boy was placed in an alternative high school in a neighboring community. As part of the school's program, parents participate in monthly meetings of a support group. Coincidentally, the social worker's son also attended this school. The social worker and his wife attended the monthly meetings, during which they had disclosed some personal information about their family's life. The social worker was uneasy about attending these meetings with his clients present.

Ethics Scenario 5

A 16-year-old high school student was referred to the school-based social worker who provides mental health treatment at a local school to help deal with her depression. For several months the social worker provided the client with counseling to help with the depression. Recently, the client lost a great deal of weight; her physician contacted the social worker and expressed concerns about the possibility of a serious eating disorder. The social worker has a lot of clinical experience but did not have any training in the treatment of eating disorders. The nearest specialist in treatment of eating disorders is two states away.