**The University of Memphis - Department of Social Work**

**School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy**

**Field Placement Code of Conduct**

Students who engage in field placement trough the Department of Social Work are expected to adhere to the standards of ethics maintained by the profession – more specifically, those advanced by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). It is your responsibility to review and be familiar with the provisions of this code. What follows are some of the major standards for practice as delineated by NASW.

If at any time during your field placement you find yourself in a situation in which you have questions or concerns about a potential ethical dilemma, please speak with your field instructor, faculty liaison, or the director of field placement.

**Commitment to Clients (1.01)** The social worker’s primary responsibility is to promote the well-being of the client.

**Self-determination (1.02)** The social worker is to respect and promote the right of the client(s) to self-determination and to assist clients in their efforts to identify and clarify goals.

**Competence (1.04)** The social worker is to provide services, and represent him/herself as competent, only within the boundaries of his/her education. It is important to inform your client(s) that you are a student.

**Conflicts of Interest (1.06)** a) The social worker is to be alert to and avoid conflicts of interest that could interfere with the exercise of professional discretion and impartial judgment. b) The social worker is to be careful not to take unfair advantage of any professional relationship. c) The social worker is to be careful not to engage in dual or multiple relationships with clients or former clients in which there are risks of exploitation or potential harm to the client.

**Privacy and Confidentiality (1.07)** The social worker is to protect the confidentiality of all information obtained in the course of professional service, except for compelling professional reasons. Such compelling reasons would include when there is a serious suicide threat or attempt, when threats against others occur, or when legal requirements to report abuse of any nature are met.

**Sexual Relationships (1.09)** The social worker is not to engage in sexual activities or sexual conduct, under any circumstances, with current or former clients, no matter whether such conduct is consensual or forced.

**Physical contact (1.10)** The social worker is not to engage in any kind of physical contact (such as cradling or caressing) with the client(s) when there is a possibility of psychological harm to the client(s) as a result of the contact.

**Impairment (4.05)** The social worker whose personal problems, psychological distress, legal problems, substance abuse, or mental health difficulties interfere with his/her ability to function responsibly are expected to take appropriate remedial action.

**Derogatory language (1.12)** The social worker is not to use derogatory language in his/her written or verbal communications to or about clients. The social worker is to use accurate and respectful language in all communications.

**Dishonesty, Fraud, and Deception (4.04)** The social worker is not to participate in, condone, or be associated with dishonesty, fraud, or deception.

**Statement of understanding**

I understand that, as a field student through the Department of Social Work, I am to adhere to the values, ethics, and standards of my profession. By my signature below, I affirm that I have received a copy of, and read, the NASW Code of Ethics, and that I agree to abide by, and serve in my field placement, within the standards there outlined.

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(Signature) (Date)

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RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have decided to participate in the University of Memphis’ Department of Social Work Field Placement Program. I hereby acknowledge that participating in field placement is entirely voluntary.

I understand that the Department of Social Work Field Placement Program involves certain risks, hazards and conditions that may be dangerous to life, limb and property and that can arise in an incalculable variety of unforeseen or foreseeable ways which may include: bodily injury, loss of limb, death or property damage. I am voluntarily participating in the field placement program with knowledge of the dangers involved. I have reached the age of majority, and I am competent to make this decision for myself, or, if I am a minor, I have obtained the permission of a parent or legal guardian.

I am not suffering from any medical condition, impairment, or disease that would prevent my safe participation in any of the activities associated with the field placement program. I have disclosed any and all of my medical conditions to the administrators of the field placement program. I will use care for my own safety and well-being. I have not been advised by a physician or any other health care provider to limit my participation in activities such as the field placement program. I assume responsibility for my participation in the field placement program and injury while participating in the field placement program.

In consideration of the right to participate in the University of Memphis Department of Social Work Field Placement Program, I agree to assume the risks involved and I acknowledge that such risks may include, but not be limited to, bodily injury and or/death and/or property damage, and hereby collectively and individually release and agree hold harmless the University of Memphis, its Board of Regents, officers, employees, agents, representatives, volunteers and assigns (“Releasees”) from all rights, claims, demands and damages of any kind, known or unknown, existing or arising in the future related to my participation in the field placement program. This release will also prevent my family from suing Releasees and binds my spouse, if I have one, my estate, siblings, parents, heirs, personal representatives and assigns.

The undersigned has read and understands this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement in its entirety and voluntarily signs same, without reliance on any representations, statements or inducements, express or implied, made by any party whomsoever.

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Name Signature Date

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Date of Birth Signature of Parent or Guardian if

Less than 18 years of Age