**Chapter 4: Professional Values, Ethics, and Professional Use of Self**

[Eye on Ethics: Making Difficult Decisions](http://www.socialworktoday.com/news/eoe_101402.shtml)

The NASW Code of Ethics guides social work practice in most circumstances. Read this article authored by Frederic Reamer in *Social Work Today*.

• Why are ethical dilemmas so complex in social work practice? How does the social worker navigate decision-making in complex cases?

• Is there a "standard" framework to use when making ethical decisions in social work practice? What role does self-reflection serve in this process?

[Pause Before Posting: Using Social Media Responsibly](http://www.socialworktoday.com/archive/020911p8.shtml)

Social workers using social media such as blogs, Facebook, message boards, or Twitter must think carefully about how their postings could affect their clients and their careers (Matthew Robb, MSW, LCSW-C, February 2011).

• When can a social worker share client information without identifiers? Are there limits to confidentiality when using the internet?

• What does the NASW Code of Ethics say about using social media? Has the NASW General Counsel offered guidance in this emerging use of technology?

• What are potential consequences and sanctions for posting client information?

[Monica Lewinsky: The Price of Shame](http://www.ted.com/talks/monica_lewinsky_the_price_of_shame)

Personal self-assessment can motivate healthy change. Although this speaker is not a social worker, she does demonstrate social work's value of critical self-reflection. Given Ms. Lewinsky's public exposure of a very personal situation, she chose to reveal her motivations and openly discuss her change process. Ultimately, her willingness to have this difficult conversation can contribute to the development of self and assist in changing future social policy.

• How important is critical self-reflection while in the change process? How can an individual recover from an experience like this? How would a social worker today assess this period of her life? How did Ms. Lewinsky address a major life decision that left her stigmatized, marginalized, and publically humiliated?

• What role did technology and media play in her experience? Would you consider these experiences a form of cyber-bullying?

• What can social workers do to address cyber-bullying targeting young adults? What does "shame can't survive empathy" mean?