

1 21 NCAC 63 .0505 is readopted as published in 31:01 NCR 38:

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3 **21 NCAC 63 .0505 RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES**

4 Social workers shall act with integrity in their relationships with colleagues and other professionals. They shall
5 know the areas of competence of other professionals and shall cooperate with them in serving clients.

6 (1) The social worker shall treat with respect and represent accurately the views, qualifications and
7 findings of colleagues, and when expressing judgment on these matters shall do so fairly and
8 through appropriate channels.

9 (2) In referring clients, social workers shall refer to professionals who are recognized ~~members of~~
10 ~~their own disciplines and are~~ by their respective profession as competent to carry out the services
11 required.

12 (3) If a social worker's services are sought by an individual who is already receiving similar services
13 from another professional, consideration for the client's welfare shall be paramount. It requires the
14 social worker to proceed with great caution, carefully considering both the existing professional
15 relationship and the therapeutic issues involved.

16 (4) Social workers shall accept their responsibility to provide competent professional guidance to
17 colleagues, employees, supervisees, and students. They shall foster working conditions that
18 provide fairness, privacy and protection from physical or mental harm. They shall evaluate fairly
19 the performance of those under their supervision, and share evaluations with supervisees. Social
20 Workers shall not harass and shall not engage in sexual relationships with supervisees, students,
21 trainees, or other colleagues over whom they exercise professional authority. They shall not abuse
22 the power inherent in their position.

23 (5) Social workers shall take appropriate measures to discourage, prevent, expose and correct
24 unethical or incompetent behavior by colleagues, including reporting incompetent and unethical
25 behavior to the appropriate licensing authority, but shall take equally appropriate steps to assist
26 and defend colleagues unjustly charged with such conduct.

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28 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90B-6; 90B-11;*
29 *Eff. March 1, 1994.*
30 *Readopted Eff. February 1, 2017*