

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK  
FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER, DECEMBER 2017**

**TITLE OF PAPER: LEGAL ASPECTS OF SOCIAL WORK METHODS**

**COURSE CODE: SWK 423**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS**
- 2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS**
- 3. TOTAL MARKS 100**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION IS GRANTED  
BY THE INVIGILATOR**

### **Question 1**

You are an executive in a non-sectarian social service agency. State and support a position “pro” or “con” regarding the question, “Should I hire a male social worker who prefers to cross-dress at work? He wears traditionally female clothes (for example, dress, nylon stockings) and makeup, along with a woman’s wig.” Your focus should be the implications of your actions against the social work principles. Highlight any ethical dilemmas that might arise from this case.

### **Question 2**

All of us have ideas about the ‘law’. It is important for those who are required to put law into practice, including social workers, to examine and reflect on these ideas; if we fail to do this, we run the risk of being merely ‘technicians’ rather than competent and reflective practitioners. Discuss this statement and its implications for social work practice.

### **Question 3**

You serve as a social worker attempting to organize a multiethnic community in a low-income portion of town. A number of immigrant populations are attracted to the area because of low-cost housing and opportunities for overtime work in several small factories. After a few weeks with them, the residents begin to share their concerns. For example, some tell you that the banks in the area charge much higher interest on small-business loans to persons of Mozambican and Zimbabwean ancestry than to those of Indian or Asian. Others indicate that the police appear to permit drug dealers, pimps, and prostitutes to operate freely in certain areas but not in others.

- a) Outline what is meant by the rule of law and analyze the notion of ‘conflicting imperatives’ in law.
- b) Identify the specific ethical principles from the NASW Code that might apply in this situation.

### **Question 4**

A 25-year-old man, father of two children (1 and 3 years old), comes to a first interview with you, a social worker in a family-counseling agency. During the course of the interview, he reveals that he and his wife argue a lot. He says that she won’t stop arguing once she starts and that when he tries to walk away, she pursues him, yelling. He indicates that in those situations he becomes enraged. He reveals that on several occasions he has pushed her and that he once punched her in the face, breaking her nose.

Discuss critically how a social worker can assist this client. Use a verbatim to demonstrate your helping skills.

### **Question 5**

Alice is 84 years old and lives on her own in a local authority flat. She has been

referred to the social services department for the first time by her GP and the case has been allocated to you. She has very bad arthritis and her flat is damp and draughty and has not been modified in any way to help her. She has trouble using the bath and toilet and she cannot get out to collect her pension.

Identify the statutory provisions which you would consider in determining the ways in which you could help Alice continue to live in her own flat.

### **Question 6**

In a community that aspires to a high order of legality, obedience to law is not submissive compliance. The obligation to obey the law is closely tied to the defensibility of rules themselves and of the official decisions that enforce them (Selznick, 1979).

- a) Discuss the implication of this quote for social work practice.
- b) Critically discuss the functions of the law.