

ETHICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE FIELD

- 1) Professionals in the social welfare and health care sector respect the human dignity and basic rights of their clients and patients
- 2) Social services and health care focus on the best interests of clients and patients
- 3) Social services and health care are about interaction
- 4) Professionals are responsible for the quality of their work
- 5) Good treatment and services require responsible decisions and operating practices

CONCLUSION

– IT IS ALWAYS ABOUT PEOPLE

National Advisory Board on Social Welfare and Health Care Ethics ETENE

Ministry of Social Affairs and
Health

Street address: Kirkkokatu 14,
00170 Helsinki

Postal address: PO Box 33,
FI-00023 GOVERNMENT,
FINLAND

Tel: +358 295 16001

E-mail: etene@stm.fi

On the web: www.etene.fi

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The task of the National Advisory Board on Social Welfare and Health Care Ethics is to consider and take a position on issues that are, as a matter of principle, ethically significant for social welfare and health care and the rights and status of patients and clients.

The Advisory Board:

1) submits initiatives, issues statements and recommendations on ethical issues in the field of social welfare and health care and raises discussion on these issues in society;

2) provides expert assistance for the development of social welfare and health care and relevant legislation;

3) collects and disseminates information about national ethical issues and about international discussion on ethical issues in the field of social welfare and health care by means of publications, training sessions etc.;

4) follows developments in the social welfare and health care sector and related technology from the point of view of ethics;

5) deals with ethical issues related to the rights and status of patients and social welfare clients.

The activities of the Advisory Board comprise meetings, seminars, events and cooperation with various actors. On average six meetings are held annually. The Advisory Board decides on its positions, statements, recommendations and publications at its meetings. It can set up sub-committees and working groups in support of its work.

The Advisory Board has a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and 18 other members, each with a personal substitute. The members are well versed in ethical issues in the field of social welfare and health care and represent service users, service providers, professionals, the legal profession, and research. There are four MPs among the members, each with a personal substitute. The Advisory Board has a General Secretary and a Secretary.

The Advisory Board is appointed for four years at one time and its activities are public. The minutes of its meetings and its recommendations and statements can be found on its website.

The activities of the Advisory Board can be evaluated on the basis of e.g.:

- Requested statements and opinions
- Feedback received in different ways
- Publicity
- Participation in topical discussion