

Practitioner Interview Questions

1. Who are you and what is your role as a social worker?

Ashley Hernandez is a Social worker for Isabella Nursing Home for the past 2 years. My roles include taking part in multidisciplinary care plan discussions to ensure that the resident's social and emotional needs are met. I create individualized care plans as well as preparing the patient's transfer to another institution, re-entry into the community, or admission if needed.

2. How did you come into the field of social work? What was the process that led you to choose?

The field?

Ashley recalls being interested in the Social work field due to her relationship with God. She stated she knew she wanted to work in the gerontology area because of her grandmother who has been sick and she wanted to advocate for older adults. Ashley recalls at first she wanted to be an accountant and she felt it was God's calling to choose social work. She remembers when she got into York College for Social Work and she got accepted to an internship at a high school. Ashley recalls she will come home from her internship overwhelmed because she had to take care of her grandmother who was very sick and will receive 3 days a week of Dialysis. She recalls being overwhelmed throughout her studies but she knew accounting wasn't for her. I asked her if she can go back in time what would she have done differently and she stated it will be seeking counseling because when caring for others your mental health has to be important as well.

3. What is your understanding of the relationship between Christianity and Social Work?

Scripture, rules, and a code of ethics serve as the foundation for Christian social workers values. Christian social workers believe that life is valuable and that people need to be fulfilled spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. The best skill they have for helping others is listening, along with empathy. They guide their clients in the right route so they may lead better lives. Christianity places a strong focus on God and the significance of spirituality in contemporary life.

4. How do you integrate your Christian faith in your social work practice?

I asked in particular how she integrates her faith in Christianity into the field her response was if you are compassionate God will reward you and part of her duty as a Christian is act in a moral way. Spiritual growth and guidance come in a variety of shapes and sizes in our daily lives. Experiences with our community, church, friends, and family assist to strengthen our faith and urge us to grow closer to God. The best way to serve is by serving the needy. Christians believe that God's compassion and giving to mankind motivates and pushes us to love and be generous in return. The greatest commandments are to love God and to love one's neighbor.

5. Have you experienced any ethical dilemmas concerning the integration of your faith and Practice as a social worker?

Ashley: As of now I have not experienced an ethical dilemma or I don't consider experiencing it and honestly I don't know how I will react if I come across it but what I do know is I will consult the code of ethics. Ashley states her colleagues have experienced ethical dilemmas and they will consult with the supervisor. Ashley stated her colleague had an ethical Dilemma in regards to dignity and worth of a person.

6. What lessons have you learned in your career as it relates to Christianity and social work?

"I learned that not everyone you will encounter will be a Christian. You will come across people with many different religions and you have to respect their choice. The moral principles of all major faiths are in line with social work ethics and values in many ways, particularly when it comes to helping the poor and vulnerable, treating everyone with dignity, and being honest in our interpersonal connections"

7. What advice do you have for new Christians in Social Work?

Ashley: referring to (Ephesians 2:8-9) "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast"

Having just grace implies that God accepts, loves, and saves us not because of ourselves or what we are, but because of what Christ has accomplished. God proclaims us righteous for the love of Christ even though none of our efforts could ever be good enough to deserve redemption. Only by faith can we obtain that grace. Even more, God grants us a faith that relies on him. Instead of being saved by following a set of dos and don'ts, we are saved by grace through trust in Christ.