

Heather Kendall: Violation of NASW Code of Ethics

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According to the data collected from multiple media outlets, four ethical principles were violated in the case of Kendall Chick. The first ethical principle violated was *Dignity and Worth of the Person*. If Campbell were to treat the client with full care, respect, and look into their self-determination, then Chick would've never been in this situation. The social worker's job is to value someone's life in the matter of their mental and physical health, self-determination, their dignity, and their life. Second, the *Importance of Human Relationships* was violated because the social worker's job is to make sure that a child is put into a safe home with proper backgrounds on the individuals in the home. The third one according to the ethical principles, is *Integrity*, Heather Campbell was well aware of the profession's mission, values, ethical principles, and ethical standards. In no way was Campbell being honest or acting responsible because she falsely made records. The last ethical principle is *Competence*, in the social work practice social workers are put in the field assuming that they have knowledge and skills that are to be applied in the practice. If social workers are aware of what they are doing based off their profession, then Campbell had no right to lie about the records being recorded.

Kendall Chick was removed from her mother's custody by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and placed with Shawna Gatto and Stephen Hood (Bangor Daily News). Assuming that their would've been proper background checks on both Stephen Hood and Shawna Gatto, there would be no way that the four-year-old girl Kendall Chick would be deceased. Campbell possibly never asked Chick if she was okay in the home or maybe even neglected in the process, while staying with Hood and Gatto. Both Hood and Gatto shared a home. If a social worker were to not abide by the Code of Ethics then they are punished. Hood was identified as Chick's grandfather and Gatto was Hood's fiance. Gatto, 44, is accused of the

killing of Chick and was charged with depraved indifference murder. She was on trial at the Capital Judicial Center in Augusta. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, during the time Chick was living with her grandfather and his fiance, it was suggested that Hood would've done the same and kill the little girl. Hood testified saying that he didn't see any known injuries.

According to what Gatto told Hood, for all he knows Chick injuries were from her falling and injuring herself. Between the two lovers, they exchanged text months prior to Chick's death. Hood said, "the life we have sucks," "I don't know what to do," "Get rid of her? How? But then we'd have to carry the guilt" (Bangor Daily News). Do to all the criminal offenses, the social worker probably didn't know that Hood has a criminal record, four convictions for misdemeanor assault dating from 1987 to 2002, as well as other crimes (Bangor Daily News).

According to the NASW Ethical Standards, there were a few standards that were up to concerns. Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities to Clients, Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities in Practice Settings, Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities as Professionals, Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities to the Social Work Profession, and Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities to the Broader Society. Within the multiple standards dealt with in this case, it was a wide variety that comes within this case. For example, 1.01 Commitment to Clients, which deals with a social worker's responsibilities of the well-being of clients; 3:02a Education and Training, which goes off of knowledge from what they've learned in the practice and how to address a situation; 5:01b Integrity of the Profession, talks about following the values, ethics, knowledge, teaching, etc...

The National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics is used upon social workers to uphold the values and to act rather ethical than unethical, but also sets the principles

and standards for the practice. The Code of Ethics are applied to those within the profession who make ethical decisions. If social workers choose not to follow the Code of Ethics, it becomes a violation presented to both companies practice and to the NASW. In the case of Kendall Chick, the caseworker Heather Campbell lost her license because she made up false records about the background checks before the child's murder. Chick was born with parents who didn't care for her as much as a parent supposed to. Chick was neglected and abused, which wasn't really noticeable until a caseworker stepped in. Campbell violated the client's rights and safety which caused her to get her license revoked. She was unprofessional and acting unethically due to her providing false information about her client's record.

Campbell getting her license revoked was the best option. If a social worker is put onto the field knowing that they are going to have to abide by the rules should know not to make mistakes in the field where it can get your license taken, which cause you to lose you job. If she values the dignity and worth of a person she'd make sure that Chick was going into a home where'd she suffer and live with it for the rest of her life. A social worker is to address the needs of the client and not to do the complete opposite. If you were to be a Christian in the social work field some may or may not be forgiving. With religion, that specific area is not to be aloud within the practice unless a client brings up their own religion. We aren't aloud to discuss our own because our religious background won't cloud or judgment of others.

The social work practice is made up of values, principles, and standards that have to be followed. Yes, we have our right to choose but as soon as you enter into the social work field you make a commitment to helping others. Whether it's through protection, confidentiality, or for someone to be able to talk to a professional to get the right resources. My personal values are

the reason why social work is a perfect job. Social workers use their skills to help those in need. My Christian faith will not get in the way of the profession. However, there may be times where mistakes could happen, but would prevent. We can still be Christian's but in no way should we make our personal opinion get in the way of the client's right to decide.

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