



Decision Making in Social Work (Practical Social Work Series)

By Terence O'Sullivan

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At a time when accountability and the avoidance of risk are increasingly demanded of social work practitioners, the ability to make clear and reasoned professional decisions is essential. This welcome new edition provides a supportive framework for making social work judgements and assessments based on a structured and practical approach.

Assessing the social, organizational and psychological backdrops which frame all decisions, this timely text explores:

- ? the key principles and goals which inform decision making
- ? the pressures of making decisions within interprofessional settings
- ? reflexive approaches to analysis, decision making and outcome evaluation
- ? the complex relationship between sound decisions and the attainment of planned outcomes

Woven through with practice scenarios applicable to the many facets of social work, this text emphasizes the importance of good decision making to high-quality social work practice. Reassuringly clear throughout, this new addition to the BASW Practical Social Work series is core reading for all involved in the field of social work, whether as students, academics, practitioners or managers.

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Editorial Review

Review

'...a valuable tool for anyone involved in making social work decisions.' - *Community Care Magazine*

REVIEWS OF PREVIOUS EDITION 'A unique multidisciplinary approach to the understanding and explanation of decision making in social work practice.' - *British Journal of Social Work* 'Decision Making in Social Work provides a comprehensive analysis of the subject, which re-emphasises the skill of the social worker, who makes (at least) half a dozen impossible decisions before lunchtime.' - Rachel Wooller, *Community Care* 'Terrence O'Sullivan's work provides a timely focus on decision making, as we seek ways to embrace research findings and risk management concepts more fully into professional practice. It will be particularly valued by social workers undertaking their Post Qualifying Award, who are seeking a theoretical framework for decision making to underpin and develop their practice.' - Brian Taylor, Northern Health and Social Services Board, Northern Ireland '[T]his book is definitely a significant contribution to social work literature, and is written with clarity and a lucid style, without over-simplification. Readers will find the decision-making framework that Terrence O'Sullivan has developed, instrumental in helping them arrive at a sound decision. It will undoubtedly be essential reading to a wide audience including students in the health and social care fields, academics, frontline social workers and managers.' - Chui Wing Hong, *Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work* 'Decision making, with all its associated perils, is such a fundamental part of social work practice that it is remarkable that it has not received more attention in the social work literature. Decision-Making in Social Work provides a comprehensive analysis of the subject, which re-emphasises the skill of the social worker, who makes (at least) half a dozen impossible decisions before lunchtime.' - *Community Care*

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From the Back Cover

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