To integrate ethical concepts and decision-making through the use of a brief case study

CASE STUDY:

Anisa is a social worker employed by the Families for Life agency. She has been supporting Zac, a single father of two school-going children for almost a year. Zac sought help after separating from the children’s mother, Rina. This was after years of trying to cope with Rina’s severe mental health issues. Anisa has supported Zac as he ensures that the children continue to have a safe relationship with their mother. In her manic episodes, Rina had spent money without Zac initially being fully aware of this. Ultimately the family had to sell their home and were in precarious housing. Anisa has helped Zac to access affordable, stable housing for his family. Zac has worked for a large company in a midlevel position for more than a decade. Recently, Zac was diagnosed with a rare illness and now requires weekly doctor’s visits. The company have been very understanding of Zac’s situation previously. With Anisa guiding Zac’s self-advocacy, the employer agreed to more flexible schedules to accommodate Zac. Anisa is a meticulous recorder and meets all administrative requirements. She also has weekly sessions with her supervisor and reviews her cases with him.

After discussion with her supervisor, and with Zac’s consent, Anisa referred the matter for a family group conference. Both maternal and paternal relatives, some of whom had already been offering limited assistance to Zac and the children, came to the conference. Rina also attended. Together the family considered how to be available to Zac and his children. They agreed to assist with getting the children to school and any appointments, supervising homework, as well as taking on some babysitting. It was decided that the children would be seen regularly by another counsellor at Families for Life and Anisa facilitated this referral, ensuring that Zac understood what this service meant and gave informed consent for his children to participate.

Through the family group conference, Anisa got to know Zac’s mom, Jenita. Post-conference, Jenita invited Anisa to attend a talk on the illness, so she could fully understand the dimensions of this health issue. Anisa went and afterwards had coffee with Jenita (which Jenita paid for). She felt it was important to engage with Jenita, as she is a key resource to Zac and his children. Zac was unaware of this interaction. He learnt about it through his mother. It seemed that Jenita was now also party to information Zac had thought he had shared confidentially with Anisa. Anisa also got to know Zac’s co-worker and friend, Kai, at the family group conference. Zac had mentioned before the conference to Anisa that he felt Kai and Anisa would be a great couple. Anisa and Kai formed an instant connection and she attended a concert with him this past week. She sees Kai as sufficiently distant from her ‘case’ and so has not mentioned this new liaison to anyone at work.

3. Prepare a ~4 page reflection with subheadings that

a. Has a title page

b. Has a brief introduction (1/2 page)

c. Identifies what Anisa is doing that is ethically correct and justifies this with intentional and specific use of the CASW Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Ethical Practice. Thus, make it clear to which principles you are referring.(~1.5 page)

d. Identifies what Anisa is doing that may be ethically concerning and justifies this with specific and intentional use of the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Ethical Practice. (~1.5 page)

e. Has a brief conclusion (1/2 page)

f. NO reference list required. You also do not need to provide citations in the text.

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