

## Chapter 2: The roles and responsibilities of the social worker

Code of Ethics of the British Association of Social Workers, <https://www.basw.co.uk/system/files/resources/code-of-ethics.pdf>—a comprehensive analysis of the standards of professional social work practice, including respect for human rights of service users, obligations to society, and issues concerning use of compulsory powers.

S. Nathanson, *What Lawyers Do—A Problem Solving Approach to Legal Practice* (Sweet & Maxwell, 1997)—if you want to look at the world through a lawyer's spectacles, this is readable and informative. Don't worry that it may be out of date; the core issues covered don't change.

J. Dickens, 'Risks and responsibilities—the role of the local authority lawyer in child care cases' (2004) *CFLQ* 16(1): 17. This article discusses key sticking points in the relationship between local authority lawyers and social workers. It suggests that awareness of each other's multiple and competing responsibilities will improve inter-professional relationships.

R. Bailey Harris and M. Harris, 'Local authorities and child protection—the mosaic of accountability' (2002) *CFLQ* 14(2): 117. This article, although now some years old, is particularly helpful in unravelling a difficult area of law. For a more recent analysis, see Seamus Burns, 'Rights versus duty' (2007) *New Law Journal* 157: 1002–3 and D. Nolan, 'Negligence and human rights law: the case for separate development' (March 2013) *Modern Law Review* 76(2): 286 for a discussion about the convergence of the law of negligence and human rights law.

J. Morrell and R. Foster, *Local Authority Liability* (7th edn, Jordan, 2020) has useful chapters covering liability for social service functions.

S. Foster and A. Stanhope 'Investigation of abuse, the right to family life and article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights' *Coventry Law Journal* 2011, 16(1), 49-54

You are recommended to read the following case since it provides a description of how social work practice can go terribly wrong. The judge was highly critical of the local authority and the social workers involved. *LB Haringey and the mother and the father and AB* 2020

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S. Banks, M. Zasada, R. Jago, A. Gallagher, Z. Austin, A. Gaag, 'Social Workers under the Spotlight: An Analysis of Fitness to Practise Referrals to the Regulatory Body in England, 2014–2016', *The British Journal of Social Work*, Volume 50, Issue 2, March 2020, Pages 326–347

K. Mason, C. Cocker and T. Halford-Letchfield 'Sexuality and religion: from the court of appeal to the social work classroom' *Social Work Education* 2020 DOI:

Carr & Goosey, *Law for Social Workers* 16e  
Annotated Further Reading

10.1080/02615479.2020.1805426.

We recommend getting into the habit of looking at—and acquiring—the texts of the major pieces of legislation relevant to your area. These can be easily found by searching electronically using the title of the Act. Cases can also usually be found through the same process.