

MNA Center for Ethics and Human Rights

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Mission and Goals

The MNA Center for Ethics and Human Rights:

- provides healthcare ethics educational opportunities
- facilitates identification and analysis of ethical issues faced by registered nurses, other health care providers, patients, and families in the state through a variety of activities
- fosters collaboration and communication related to healthcare ethics among various healthcare disciplines as well as lay communities in the state
- reviews, disseminates, and/or conducts research to expand the knowledge of ethical issues affecting healthcare in Maryland
- supports the MNA Legislative committee in its efforts to advocate for human rights issues that influence the health and well-being of Maryland citizens

Statement of Philosophy

The MNA Center for Ethics and Human Rights accepts the Philosophical Statement on Ethics and Human Rights, as written by the ANA. Particular excerpts include:

"...the individual nurse has at least three responsibilities: (1) the careful delivery of nursing care in a way that meets the needs of the individual, is consistent with the goals of the individual with respect to level of health and quality of life; (2) social action and reform to increase the availability of nursing care and to facilitate access to needed health care for all; and (3) patient education and advocacy to ensure that individuals are aware of all options and their consequences and can make informed choices about health care.

Human rights' issues and ethical reasoning are two sides of a coin. Human rights' issues are inherent in ethical dilemmas, and ethical dilemmas often involve conflicts between rights and responsibilities. The commitment to provide services with respect to human dignity as stipulated in the Code for Nurses with Interpretive Statements is based on respect for human beings as ends in themselves and as holders of freedom, claims, and entitlements. Translating this view of human beings into specific nursing actions, is, first of all, a process of reasoning about what ought to be done for the patient. This reasoning process, accompanied by observations and judgments about patient response and ethical expertise in the actual delivery of care are the necessary components of nursing practice ..."

Activities of the MNA Center

- Pursue the mission of the MNA Center through planning educational activities related to ethical and human rights issues affecting healthcare in Maryland
- Serve as a resource for nurses in ethical decision-making
- Identify ethical and human rights issues experienced by nurses in Maryland and respond as appropriate
- Collaborate with other healthcare professional groups on decision-making related to ethics and human rights
- Develop position papers on ethical/human rights issues of concern to nurses
- Pursue research that contributes to knowledge about ethics and human rights in healthcare, particularly in the state of Maryland
- Plan and coordinate the activities of the MNA Center's Ethics Special Interest Group