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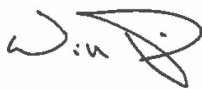
Dear Colleagues,

The National Association of Social Workers – Texas Chapter (NASW-TX) supports social workers' ethical right to provide the best, evidence-based practices. Further, NASW-TX supports social workers' ethical rights to work with individuals and families utilizing informed consent, respectful, inclusive, and informed language, and to utilize a person-in-environment approach.

Licensed social workers are trained in assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and their work may cover planning, treating comorbid conditions, maintaining standards of confidentiality and consent. Guided by professional values, standards, and the Code of Ethics, social workers are ethically obligated to provide gender affirming care. NASW-TX wants to reassure social workers that providing gender-affirming mental health care and treatment throughout the state is legal and permissible. Social workers can also refer clients and their families to gender affirming care out-of-state, if applicable.

Providing gender affirming care affirms the client's experienced identity in the moment and moves with the client as that person's identity evolves over time. Gender affirming care is not about advocating that the client endorse any specific gender identity (or other forms of identity); it is about accepting the client for who they are in the moment.

All social workers are expected to meet clients where they are at and support them through their journey. Using a strengths-based perspective, social workers validate clients' self-directed choices to grow, change, and transform. Social workers create safe and nurturing spaces for people to be themselves, allowing them to step out into the world more confident and self-assured in their identity. Social workers recognize clients as the experts in their own lives, and affirm the right of clients to determine their own choices and decisions.



Will Francis, LMSW,
Executive Director- NASW Louisiana & Texas



Kurt W. Oster, LBS, LICSW, LCSW, ACSW,
BCD, RPT™, SOGIE Chair



Chris Avila, LCSW-S, BCD,
SOGIE Vice Chair

SOGIE Members



Hannah Mitchell, LCSW,
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Resources:

NASW Texas SOGIE Equity Committee: https://www.naswtx.org/page/Comm_SOGIE

NASW Code of Ethics: <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics>

NASW LGBTQIA2S+ Practice Page: <https://www.socialworkers.org/Practice/LGBTQIA2S>