

BASIC CONCEPTS RELATED TO SOCIAL WORK

SOCIAL WELFARE

- **General Definition** – an **organized system of social services and institutions** that helps individuals, groups, and communities attain satisfying standards of **life and health**.
 1. **Gertrude Wilson** - Social Welfare is an “organized concern of all people for all people.”
 2. **Walter Friedlander** - Social Welfare is an organized system of social services and institutions designed to help individuals and groups achieve satisfying standards of life and health.
 3. **Elizabeth Wickenden** - Social Welfare includes laws, programs, benefits, and services that meet social needs recognized as important to the well-being of the population and the better functioning of society.

Social Welfare = organized efforts + services + institutions + meeting people's needs + well-being.

HOW SOCIETY RESPONDS TO UNMET NEEDS?

Society responds to people's needs and problems through **three ways**:

1. **Individual and Group Efforts**
 - Systematic and voluntary efforts of individuals or groups.
 - Example: people voluntarily organizing assistance for families affected by a disaster.
2. **Major Societal Institutions**

Institutions with responsibilities for meeting human needs:

 - Family
 - Church
 - Government
 - Cooperatives
 - Labor unions
3. **Social Agencies**
 - Public or private organizations with an institutionalized network of services.
 - They employ Social Workers.

TWO CONCEPTIONS OF SOCIAL WELFARE

1. RESIDUAL

Social Welfare is seen as:

- temporary

- for emergencies
- used when the regular social system fails
- eventually withdrawn when the regular system works again

It may carry the stigma of “dole-out” or charity.

2. INSTITUTIONAL

Social Welfare is seen as:

- a proper and legitimate function of modern society
- a regular part of society
- necessary because some people cannot meet all their needs by themselves

Residual = temporary assistance

Institutional = regular and legitimate social function

SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services – programs, services, and activities provided to concretely **respond to the needs and problems** of members of society.

- Social Welfare cannot remain only an idea; it must be shown through actual services and programs.

CATEGORIES OF SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS

1. SOCIAL SECURITY

Compulsory measures that protect individuals and families from the effects of:

- unavoidable interruption of income
- serious reduction of earned income

Goal: maintain a reasonable standard of living.

2. PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICE

Services dealing with:

- personal problems
- stressful situations
- interpersonal difficulties
- people in need

It involves direct helping services, often together with government and voluntary agencies.

3. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Material or concrete assistance, usually provided by government, to people who:

- have no income
- have no means of supporting themselves or their families

Examples:

- loss of employment
- natural disasters

GOALS / MOTIVATIONS OF SOCIAL WELFARE

1. HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL JUSTICE GOAL

Based on the belief that people have the potential to develop themselves, but physical, social, economic, and psychological factors may prevent them.

Therefore, society should help those who are:

- most afflicted
- most dependent
- most neglected
- least able to help themselves

2. SOCIAL CONTROL GOAL

Recognizes that deprived or disadvantaged groups may react against a society they see as unfair or alienating.

Social Welfare can therefore help protect:

- life
- property
- political stability
- social order

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Prioritizes programs that increase:

- production of goods
- production of services
- resources contributing to economic development

The immediate beneficiaries may be able-bodied and relatively better-off members of the community.

- Social Welfare can therefore have different purposes at the same time—helping people, promoting justice, maintaining social order, and supporting economic development.

SOCIAL WORK

RA 4373 Definition

Social Work is a profession primarily concerned with organized social service activities that:

- facilitate and strengthen basic social relationships
- promote mutual adjustment between individuals and their social environment
- benefit both the individual and society
- **use social work methods**

Basic Methods

1. Case Work
2. Group Work
3. Community Organization

Global Definition — IFSW & IASSW, 2014

Social Work is a practice-based profession and academic discipline that promotes:

- social change and development
- social cohesion
- empowerment
- liberation of people
- social justice
- human rights
- collective responsibility
- respect for diversity

It uses theories from Social Work, social sciences, humanities, and indigenous knowledge and works with people and structures to address life challenges and improve well-being.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE IN EUROPE

BEFORE THE 1600s

Church Charity

- Care of the poor was mainly a **Church activity**.
- People gave alms because of concern for the poor and for the **salvation of their souls**.

14th Century England

Poor people were classified into:

Able-bodied poor

- capable of working and earning a living

Impotent poor

- unable to work
- persons with disabilities
- elderly
- sick
- young children
- pregnant women

IMPORTANT EARLY LAWS

1349 — Ordinance of Laborers

Issued by **King Edward III**.

Purpose:

- prevent begging
- prevent vagrancy

The government response was largely **punitive and repressive**, while the Church provided charity.

1531 — Henrician Poor Law

- Distinguished able-bodied unemployed from impotent poor.
- Marked the beginning of **public responsibility for the poor**.
- However, it failed.

1536 Reform

Important because of **secularization**—the shift from an ecclesiastical/Church-based system.

- Impotent poor → maintained by parish through church collections
- Able-bodied beggars → forced to work
- Idle children → separated from parents and assigned to masters for training

1572 Overseers of the Poor were appointed as civil officers.

1601 — Elizabethan Poor Law

Previous poor laws were consolidated.

Three classes:

1. **Able-bodied poor** → given work; refusal could lead to punishment
2. **Impotent poor** → placed in almshouses
3. **Dependent children** → apprenticed unless parents/grandparents could support them

Early welfare was not purely about helping. It combined:

ASSISTANCE + CONTROL

Some people received help, while others were punished or forced to work.

CHARITY ORGANIZATION SOCIETY (COS)

London — 1869

Buffalo, New York — 1877

Associated with:

- Rev. Stephen Humphreys Gurteen
- T. Guilford Smith

Scientific Charity

COS introduced:

- centralized records
- administrative services
- objective investigation
- professional training

Main purposes

- coordinate charitable organizations
- prevent duplication
- know what other agencies were doing
- maintain a registry of cases
- provide personal service
- promote independence instead of simply giving material aid
- prevent pauperism

THOMAS CHALMERS

Thomas Chalmers promoted:

- **parochial/neighborhood self-help**
- moral reform
- frequent home visits
- helping people use their own resources

He believed excessive assistance could discourage people from finding work and becoming self-reliant.

Friendly Visitors

COS later adopted this approach.

Mostly middle- and upper-class volunteers, particularly women, who visited poor families.

They emphasized:

- personal interest
- compassion
- sympathy
- helping the poor help themselves

Limitation: They often believed poverty was caused by **moral failings**, which could lead to blaming individuals for their poverty.

SETTLEMENT HOUSE MOVEMENT

Toynbee Hall — 1884

Founded in East London by **Samuel and Henrietta Barnett**.

Purpose:

- community education
- community building
- improving living conditions
- systemic poverty reform
- better pensions

Graduate students lived in working-class communities and worked with residents.

SHIFT: Individual charity → community involvement and social reform

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CHARLES BOOTH

Beginning in **1886**, Charles Booth conducted social research on poverty.

His research challenged the belief that:

Poverty was always the individual's fault.

He found that poverty could be connected to:

- insufficient wages
- environment
- inadequate housing
- unhealthy working conditions

His research showed that existing poor laws did not completely solve poverty.

- This helped Social Work move from:

"What is wrong with the person?"

toward:

"What conditions are affecting the person?"

HULL HOUSE — 1889

Founded in Chicago by: **Jane Addams** and **Ellen Gates Starr**

Hull House provided:

- clubs for children
- lending library
- music programs
- social science club
- hot lunches
- child care
- English classes
- lectures

They also advocated for:

- garbage collection
- cleaner streets
- public baths
- parks
- playgrounds
- better schools

Jane Addams

- central figure in Settlement House Movement
- pioneer of Social Work
- advocate of social justice
- Nobel Peace Prize — **1931**

Mary Richmond

- foundation of modern **casework**
- wrote **Social Diagnosis (1917)**
- promoted systematic assessment of individuals and families

Lillian Wald

- nurse and social reformer
- founded **Henry Street Settlement**

- pioneer in public health nursing
- improved healthcare access for poor and immigrant communities

SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

1898 — New York School of Philanthropy

Later became associated with the **Columbia University School of Social Work**.

It was the first institution in the US to offer formal training for Social Workers.

Important feature:

Classroom learning + Fieldwork

This combination became an important part of Social Work education.

Later, specialized areas developed such as:

- medical social work
- psychiatric social work
- child welfare

PRE-COLONIAL / PRE-HISTORIC PERIOD OF SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Before formal Social Work existed as a profession, Filipino communities already practiced forms of **mutual help and social welfare**.

Barangay System

- Filipinos lived in small, scattered communities called **barangays**.
- Barangays were usually located near rivers, coastal plains, and areas where people could obtain resources.
- A barangay was composed of parents, children, relatives, and other members of the community.
- It was usually headed by a **datu**.

Role of the Datu

The datu:

- Looked after the welfare of the community.
 - Helped settle conflicts.
 - Provided leadership during times of danger.
 - Helped maintain order and protection.
- Social welfare during this period focused on:

Mutual protection + cooperation + economic survival

- Even before formal institutions existed, Filipinos already had a tradition of **community support and mutual aid**.

SPANISH PERIOD

During the Spanish period, social welfare was strongly influenced by **religion and Catholic charity**.

- Helping others was connected to the religious belief of:

“To do good to others for the salvation of their souls.”

Religious groups and missionaries became important providers of welfare services.

Hospitals:

1565 – First Hospital

- The first hospital was established in **Cebu** by Don Miguel Lopez de Legazpi.
- It was later transferred to Manila in **1571**.
- In **1578**, it became known as **Hospitalito de Santa Ana** under the Franciscans.

Other Hospitals

- **San Lazaro Hospital – 1578**
- **San Gabriel Hospital – 1587**
- **San Juan de Dios Hospital – 1596**
- **Hospital Real – 1612**
- **Nueva Caceres Hospital – 1645**
- **Hospital for Convalescents in Bagumbayan – 1742**

San Lazaro Hospital

- Originally served Filipino beggars.
- In **1631**, it became a hospital for people with leprosy.

Asylums and Orphanages:

Some institutions were also established for people who needed special care.

Examples:

- **La Real Casa Misericordia – 1594**
- **Venerable Third Order of Sampaloc – 1611**
- **Archicofradia de Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno de Recoletos – 1655**

These institutions helped people such as:

- Orphans
- Poor individuals
- Sick people
- Other vulnerable groups

Education:

- The **first Parochial School of Cebu** was established in **1565** by the Augustinians.
- Other schools were later established.
- During the Spanish period, welfare was largely connected to **religious charity, hospitals, orphanages, asylums, and education**.

AMERICAN PERIOD

The American period brought a major shift toward a more **organized, secular, and government-supported welfare system**.

Major Changes

The Americans introduced:

- A new educational system
- New approaches to health
- Religious freedom
- More organized public welfare programs

Social welfare gradually became less dependent on religious charity and more connected to **government and civic organizations**.

1905 – Philippine Chapter of the American Red Cross

- Established in the Philippines.
- Assisted in disaster relief.
- Administered funds for people affected by disasters and emergencies.

1908 – Philippine General Hospital

- The **Philippine General Hospital (PGH)** was established.
- Other hospitals such as the University Hospital and Mary Johnston Hospital followed.

Importance: Health services became an important part of organized social welfare.

PUBLIC WELFARE BOARD – 1915

1915 - The **Public Welfare Board** was created under **Legislative Act No. 2510**.

Purpose:

- Coordinate welfare activities of existing charitable organizations.
- Make welfare services more organized.

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- This represented a movement toward **coordination and government involvement** in welfare.

GOVERNMENT ORPHANAGE – 1917

January 1917

- A government orphanage was established in **Makati, Rizal**.
- It became the first government entity operating as a welfare agency.
- It was an important early step in organized **child welfare**.
- Applications for assistance were systematically investigated.
- Welfare was becoming more **systematic and based on investigation**, rather than simply giving charity.

ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF MANILA – 1917

The **Associated Charities of Manila** was founded by civic-minded Americans and Filipinos.

Contributions:

- Introduced the **Community Chest concept**.
- Provided material relief.
- Assisted people in finding employment.
- Assistance was based on a study of the person's needs.
- The Associated Charities became an important foundation in the development of **Social Casework in the Philippines**.
- It helped move Philippine welfare from simple charity toward **organized and systematic assistance**.

1921 – OFFICE OF PUBLIC WELFARE COMMISSIONER

The **Office of the Public Welfare Commissioner** was created.

- It absorbed the functions of the Public Welfare Board.
- It strengthened government coordination of welfare activities.

JOSEFA JARA MARTINEZ – 1921

Josefa Jara Martinez obtained a Social Work diploma from the **New York School of Social Work**.

Contributions:

- Worked with the Public Welfare Board.
- Introduced a more **scientific approach** to Social Work.
- Helped develop organized child welfare services.
- Became an important pioneer in Philippine Social Work.
- She helped bring **professional Social Work training and scientific methods** to the Philippines.

1922 – CHARITABLE SOLICITATION

The Office of the Public Welfare Commissioner prepared solicitation forms for charitable appeals.

Purpose:

- Protect the public from dishonest or unscrupulous fundraising.
- Make charitable activities more organized and accountable.

1924 – ASSOCIATED CHARITIES BECAME INDEPENDENT

Associated Charities became independent under the Public Welfare Commissioner.

It received:

- Government financial support
- Private contributions
- This showed increasing cooperation between **government and private organizations** in providing welfare services.

1930s – DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK

During the 1930s, Social Work became more organized and professional.

Developments:

- Associated Charities employed college graduates as **home visitors**.
- Home visitors received **in-service training**.
- The University of the Philippines offered non-degree Social Work courses.
- Civil service examinations for Social Workers were developed before World War II.
- Filipino women went to the United States for formal Social Work education.

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- Voluntary organizations also employed trained Social Workers.
- Social Work was moving from volunteer charity toward a **trained profession**.

1933 – FRANK MURPHY ADMINISTRATION

The administration of **Frank Murphy** brought important developments in social welfare.

Developments:

- Scholarships were provided for professional Social Work education in the United States.
- Government child and maternal health centers were established.
- The Great Depression increased the need for relief services.
- Associated Charities experienced difficulty responding to the increasing needs.
- Government appropriations for relief increased.
- The **Insular Relief Agency** was established.

Development:

The government increasingly accepted responsibility for helping people experiencing serious economic and social difficulties.

- The government became more directly involved in **relief and welfare services**.

WORLD WAR II

During World War II:

- Both volunteers and paid workers continued to provide social welfare services.
- Welfare efforts focused on helping people affected by war and its consequences.
- Social welfare remained necessary even during periods of crisis and conflict.

POSTWAR DEVELOPMENT

1947 – Social Welfare Commission (SWC)

- The **Social Welfare Commission** was created under the Office of the President.
- The Bureau of Public Welfare was abolished.

1948 – PACSA

President's Action Committee on Social Amelioration (PACSA)

- Created by President **Elpidio Quirino**.
- Focused on socio-economic reforms and assistance to people experiencing hardship.

1951 – Social Welfare Administration (SWA)

The **Social Welfare Commission** and **PACSA** were merged.

They became the:

Social Welfare Administration (SWA)

Importance:

This created a more integrated government welfare program.

PROFESSIONALIZATION AND GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT

1965 – RA 4373

Social Work Law

- Regulated the practice of Social Work.
- Regulated the operation of Social Work agencies.
- Formalized requirements for Social Work practice.
- Recognized methods such as:
 - Social Casework
 - Social Group Work
 - Community Organization
- Social Work became legally recognized as a **profession**.

1967 – RA 5175

- Amended **RA 4373**.
- Made changes to provisions concerning the practice and methods of Social Work.

1968 – RA 5416

Social Welfare Act of 1968

- Provided for comprehensive Social Welfare services.
- Elevated the Social Welfare Administration into the **Department of Social Welfare**.
- Strengthened the responsibility of the government in providing welfare services.

Groups served included:

- People experiencing poverty

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- Youth
- Older persons
- Sick individuals
- Persons with disabilities
- Disaster victims
- Cultural minorities

SHIFT TOWARD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1976 – Department of Social Services and Development (DSSD)

- The Department of Social Welfare became the **Department of Social Services and Development (DSSD)**.
 - The approach shifted from mainly **institution-based services** toward **community-oriented programs**.
 - Greater emphasis was placed on people's **capacities and participation**.
- The focus began shifting from simply helping people to also **developing their abilities and communities**.

1978 – Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD)

- The DSSD became the **Ministry of Social Services and Development**.
- This change was connected with the government structure during the parliamentary period.

1980s – CASE MANAGEMENT

During the 1980s:

Case Management:

- Became an important approach in Social Work.
- Focused on assessing people's needs and connecting them with appropriate services and resources.

1987 – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Social Services and Development became the:

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

This was established under **Executive Order No. 123**.

- DSWD became the major national government agency responsible for social welfare and development programs.

S. 1991 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

RA 7160 – Local Government Code of 1991

- Decentralized/devolved many basic Social Welfare services to **Local Government Units (LGUs)**.
 - LGUs became more directly involved in delivering social welfare services to their communities.
- Social welfare services became more **community- and local government-oriented**.

EUROPE/US + PHILIPPINES: COMPARISON

Europe and United States	Philippines
Began with church charity	Began with community mutual aid
Poor Laws developed	Spanish religious charity developed
Government became involved	Government involvement expanded during American period
Charity Organization Society	Associated Charities
Friendly Visitors	Home visitors
Settlement Houses	Community-oriented welfare programs
Mary Richmond and Social Diagnosis	Josefa Jara Martinez and scientific Social Work
Professional education developed	Formal Social Work education developed
Social Work became a profession	RA 4373 legally regulated Social Work
Community/social reform developed	Philippine Social Work shifted toward community development

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4373

"Social Work Law"

Approved: June 19, 1965

Purpose: Regulate the practice of Social Work and the operation of Social Work agencies in the Philippines.

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Associated with **Dr. Maria Kalaw Katigbak**, identified in the material as the author of RA 4373. **Petra de Joya** helped spearhead the professionalization of Social Work in the Philippines.

Definition of Social Worker

A practitioner who has:

- accepted academic training
- professional experience
- skills to achieve Social Work objectives

Uses:

- **case work**
- **group work**
- **community organization**

to help individuals, groups, and communities meet needs and solve adjustment problems.

Social Work Agency

A person, corporation, or organization—private or governmental—that engages mainly in Social Work or Social Welfare activities and receives funding from government, community solicitation, fund drives, or private endowment.

3. prepares the official seal
4. issues, suspends, and revokes registration certificates
5. monitors conditions affecting Social Work practice
6. investigates violations

QUALIFICATION TO TAKE THE SOCIAL WORK EXAM

Under the original RA 4373 provisions in the material, applicants had to:

- be Filipino citizens
- be at least **21 years old**
- be in good health
- have good moral character
- possess a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Social Work
- complete at least **1,000 case hours** of practical training under a qualified Social Worker

Passing the examination

- At least **70% general rating**
- No subject rating below **50%**

Successful examinees must take the **professional oath** before practicing.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

Composition

- **1 Chairperson**
- **4 members**

Appointed by the **President**, with consent of the Commission on Appointments.

Main qualifications

Members must generally:

- be Filipino citizens and residents
- be at least 30 years old
- have good moral character
- possess a Master's Degree in Social Work
- have required Social Work practice experience
- be qualified Registered Social Workers, subject to the provision for first appointees
- not have prohibited faculty or financial connections with Social Work schools

Functions of the Board

The Board:

1. administers the Act
2. administers oaths

REGISTRATION OF SOCIAL WORK AGENCIES

A Social Work Agency must:

- register with the proper authority
- mainly engage in Social Work
- employ enough qualified Registered Social Workers
- use at least **60% of its funds** for direct Social Work services under the original RA 4373 provision
- maintain Social Work records

RA 5175 AND RA 10847

RA 5175

Approved: August 4, 1967

Amended RA 4373, including adding the phrase concerning the use of **Social Work methods** in the definition.

RA 10847

Approved: May 23, 2016

Important changes include:

- lowered minimum age for examination applicants from **21 to 18**
- Continuing Professional Development (**CPD**) requirement

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- **45 CPD units** from an accredited provider
- integration of licensed Social Workers into one national organization accredited by the Board, identified in the material as **PASWI**
- Special Temporary Permits for qualified foreign Social Workers, with limitations
- agency funding requirement increased from **60% to 70%** for direct Social Work services
- increased penalties for violations

Original RA 4373: 21 years old

RA 10847: 18 years old

Original agency requirement: 60%

RA 10847: 70%

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5416

“Social Welfare Act of 1968”

Approved: June 15, 1968

Purpose:

Provides comprehensive Social Welfare services for individuals and groups needing assistance and creates the **Department of Social Welfare**.

It explicitly recognizes that the **State has responsibility** for providing a comprehensive Social Welfare program.

It focuses on vulnerable and distressed Filipinos experiencing difficulties related to:

- poverty
- youth
- old age
- illness
- physical/mental disabilities
- natural disasters
- cultural minorities

POWERS AND DUTIES OF DSWD UNDER RA 5416

Remember the major functions:

1. PROGRAMS

Develop and implement Social Welfare programs.

2. STANDARDS

Set standards and policies for public and private Social Welfare programs.

3. RESEARCH

Conduct research on:

- family life
- children and youth
- elderly

- persons with disabilities
- groups with special needs

4. PILOT PROJECTS

Create pilot projects that may later be implemented nationwide.

5. ACCREDITATION

Accredit Social Welfare institutions and organizations.

6. REGULATION

License and regulate charitable solicitations and fund drives.

Other functions:

- consultation and training
- information dissemination
- regional/provincial/city/municipal offices
- coordination of government and voluntary efforts
- establishment of necessary facilities
- creation of rules and regulations

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9433

“Magna Carta for Public Social Workers”

Approved: April 11, 2007

Purpose:

Provides a **Magna Carta for Public Social Workers**.

Important Definitions

Registered Social Worker (RSW)

A graduate of BSSW/MSW who has passed the Social Work licensure examination.

Public Social Worker

A Registered Social Worker employed in government service.

Public Social Welfare and Development Worker

A worker employed in government Social Welfare and Development agencies.

PUBLIC SOCIAL WORK POSITIONS

Government Social Work agencies and institutions should generally be headed by **Registered Social Workers**, except cabinet and non-career positions.

Priority should be given to RSWs when filling government Social Work positions.

WORKING CONDITIONS AND BENEFITS

Normal Work

- maximum **8 hours/day**
- **40 hours/week**

On-Call

For urgent/immediate needs or emergency relief work.

- additional pay = **50% of regular wage**
- cannot be on-call beyond **7 days per month**
- may teach or practice the profession after regular office hours

Overtime

Work beyond normal hours, including weekends/holidays when required, must receive additional compensation according to existing laws.

Other Benefits

- government salary scale
- leave benefits
- retirement benefit of one salary grade higher
- hazard allowance of at least **20% of monthly basic salary**
- transportation allowance
- subsistence allowance
- housing/living quarters allowance
- longevity pay
- clothing allowance
- protection for work-related injuries

RIGHTS OF PUBLIC SOCIAL WORKERS

Public Social Workers have the right to:

- protection from discrimination
- protection from interference, intimidation, harassment, or punishment
- join or organize lawful organizations/unions
- protection in applying appropriate professional interventions
- continuing professional growth and development

Security of Tenure

A permanent Public Social Worker cannot be terminated except **for cause**.

Reassignment

Generally requires:

- written notice
- reason for reassignment
- notice at least **30 days before** transfer/reassignment

Married Public Social Workers may be assigned in the **same municipality**, but not in the same office.