

Traditional 2 year and extended MSW program case study #2:

For the following case study, do the following:

Read the following case study thoroughly. Complete all tasks listed in the case study and write a 4-to-5-page paper (does not include reference page or cover sheet) to address outlined aspects of the case study. See deliverables below.

This paper:

- Will include a cover page that includes your name, the program you are applying for and the title of the case study.
- Will be double spaced with 1-inch margins in times new roman or arial
- Utilize at least 3 academic references following the instructions below, citing correctly
- Include at least one in-text citation, using appropriate formatting. This citation may be taken from one of the 3 academic references.
- Use headings and subheadings as appropriate
- Be clearly written using a professional style without grammatical errors
- Reflect your original thoughts, ideas and writing.
- Be written in total by you. No part of this original paper should have been used for another assignment, by written by any other person or by artificial intelligence.

Your writing will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Following Instructions:** Ensure that you adhere to the guidelines provided.
- **Thoroughness and Organization:** Provide comprehensive and well-structured responses.
- **Evidence of Critical Thinking and Analysis:** Show your ability to think critically and analyze information effectively.
- **Grammar and Usage:** Ensure your writing is free from grammatical and usage errors.

Case Study: Rosa **Ethical Dilemmas in Healthcare Access for Undocumented Immigrants**

Background:

You are a volunteer coordinator at a community health clinic that serves low-income populations, including many undocumented immigrants. The clinic provides essential healthcare services such as vaccinations, routine checkups, and emergency care, regardless of patients' legal status. As someone with no formal social work background but with a passion for helping marginalized communities, you have taken on this volunteer role to support those in need. You

are considering applying to a Master of Social Work (MSW) program to develop the skills needed to better address the challenges you observe in your work.

One of the patients, Rosa, is a 32-year-old undocumented immigrant from Guatemala. She has been living in the U.S. for five years, working as a house cleaner and supporting her two children. Recently, she has been experiencing severe health issues, including fatigue, chest pain, and shortness of breath. Rosa is afraid to seek medical help outside the clinic due to her undocumented status, fearing deportation if she interacts with the formal healthcare system. The clinic can only provide limited care, and Rosa requires specialized treatment for a possible heart condition, which is beyond the clinic's scope.

Rosa's case presents an ethical dilemma. On one hand, you want to ensure that she gets the care she needs, but on the other hand, you are aware of the barriers posed by her undocumented status and her fear of being reported to immigration authorities. As a volunteer with no formal social work training, you must think critically and consider how best to support Rosa while recognizing the limitations of your role and the systemic challenges she faces.

Ethical Dilemma:

The ethical dilemma in this case involves balancing the need to advocate for Rosa's health while respecting her fears and concerns as an undocumented immigrant. Healthcare access is a fundamental right, yet systemic barriers—such as immigration status—often prevent marginalized individuals from receiving necessary care. You must decide how to support Rosa while considering the clinic's policies, the risks she faces, and the broader ethical obligation to protect vulnerable populations.

Address all the following points in your paper.

1. Client Support & Ethical Considerations:

- How would you support Rosa in accessing the healthcare she needs while respecting her fears of deportation and mistrust of the healthcare system?
- How do the **NASW Code of Ethics** principles, particularly those related to **dignity and worth of the person** and **social justice**, apply to this case?

2. Problem Solving & Critical Thinking:

- What steps would you take to explore alternatives for Rosa's care, given that the clinic's resources are limited?
- How would you balance Rosa's immediate health needs with the ethical responsibility to ensure her safety and respect her legal status concerns?

3. Systemic Barriers & Advocacy:

- Research the systemic barriers undocumented immigrants face in accessing healthcare in the U.S. How do these barriers contribute to health disparities, and how could social workers advocate for policy changes that address these issues?
- How would you use your role as a volunteer to advocate for Rosa and others in similar situations while understanding the limitations of your authority?

4. Use of Academic Literature:

- Research academic literature on healthcare access for undocumented immigrants, the ethical obligations of healthcare providers and social workers in these contexts, and the role of advocacy in promoting healthcare justice.
- Integrate the literature into the 3 sections above to inform your approach to Rosa's case, and the evidence-based strategies you recommend?