

Are Social Workers Required to Engage in Policy- Practice: An Analysis of Job Descriptions

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Social workers' involvement in the policy making process (policy-practice) is considered to be an important aspect of the social work profession. In the current study, formal social work job descriptions were examined in an effort to determine whether, and to what extent, social workers in Israel are required to engage in policy-practice and which specific practices are required of them in this context. A quantitative content analysis of 78 job descriptions for social workers in a variety of services in the central and local government and voluntary sectors showed that nearly half the descriptions stipulated at least one policy-practice task, usually within the organization itself. The analysis also indicated that policy-practice is constructed largely as a non-political, value-free administrative practice, usually performed at the managerial levels of an organization. A discussion of these findings, as well as their practical implications, is presented.

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