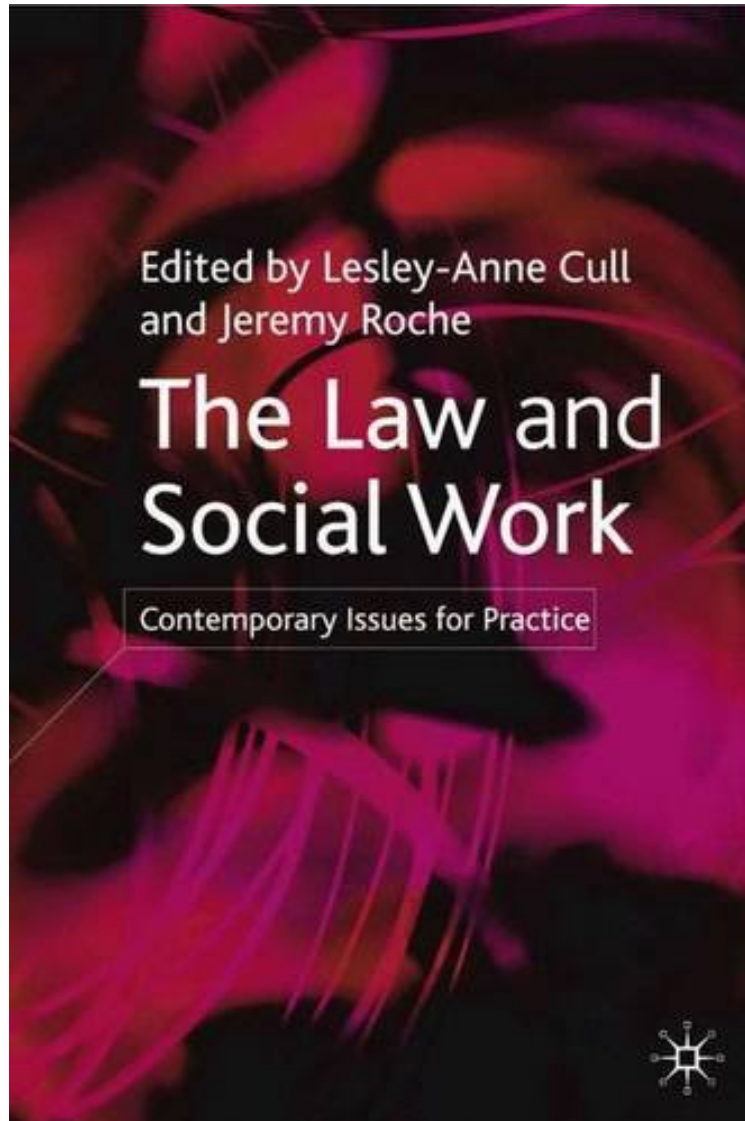


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The law is central to social work, regulating practice, ensuring accountability and providing professionals with the power and authority to work effectively. Yet it does not, and cannot, provide an answer to the complex human

questions that lie at the heart of the social work task and, like social work itself, it is subject to constant development and change. This major text aims to enrich thinking and debate about this crucial and challenging area, thereby encouraging reflective practice. It combines discussion of conceptual debates with a focus on key areas of law and practice and on the perspectives of both users and practitioners. It offers unique insights into the ways in which the law guides decision-making in social work and provides a framework for professional interventions. Divided into three sections, each of which sheds lights in different ways on the challenges and critical issues raised at the interface between social work and the law, the book covers such important subjects as: * the relationship between social work values and the law; * partnership with service users; * risk and professional judgement; * human rights; * child protection and family support; * elder abuse; * youth justice; * disability and special education needs; * community care. In its breadth of coverage, focus, and clear, readable style, this is an essential text for all those undertaking social work education or looking to update and develop their knowledge of the law.

'...an important addition to the literature, in that whilst offering some useful summaries of relevant law, it also seeks to locate the law in a context of developing social policy and social issues, and to consider the dilemmas for social workers in implementing the legal framework.' - Roger Greeff, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, Sheffield Hallam University, Social Work Education s of the First Edition 'The book brings together core components of context, policies and issues, which are critical for social work practice. It is one book that is really ahead of its time by incorporating such a wide range of topics that any contemporary Social Worker might be confronted with one or many of them at any point in time.' - Dr Vasintha Veeran, Department of Political Science Sociology, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland 'Very good law book which covers many contemporary issues and brings practice up-to-date - this book will be particularly useful for second-year students.' - Mr Stephen Jordan, Department of Social and Educational Studies, South East Essex College, UK From the Back Cover The Law and Social Work is up-to-date and contemporary. It analyses current debates around confidentiality, State intervention and the legal issues impacting on children, young people, families and vulnerable adults. It also offers an insightful discussion of central social work themes, integrating: ? Ethics and values? Discrimination? Assessment and intervention? Accountability Charting the changes in law and practice over the past ten years, this new edition provides thematic accounts of key areas of development. It also reflects the pace of change in a number of spheres, including youth justice, mental health and discrimination law. Written by leading academics and social work practitioners widely published in their fields of expertise, this is an authoritative text for social work students, practitioners and professionals across the health and social care spectrum.