

Ethical Thinking and Practice for Parent and Family Life Educators

In 1992 the Minnesota Council on Family Relations formed a Parent Education Ethics Committee as part of what was then a separate Parent and Family Education Section of MCFR. From that work came several editions of the booklet "Ethical Thinking and Practice for Parent and Family Life Educators," the latest and new version which is available in PDF format on the MCFR website at www.mcfr.net. Hard copies are also available for purchase through MCFR for \$5.00 per copy (checks written to MCFR) by contacting Linda Vukelich at:

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History of development of the booklet:

- The Parent Education Ethics Committee of the Minnesota Council on Family Education (MCFR) was formed and began work in 1992.
- Parent educators were surveyed, and the committee consulted with ethics experts and reviewed literature on ethics in related fields.
- The principles and virtues were inductively developed through a first round of workshops.
- The case study process was developed and a second round of workshops was conducted to refine the principles and process.
- The booklet was published and further rounds of workshops were held.
- MCFR Ethics Committee members presented at state and national conferences.
- The document became part of NCFR publications.
- The principles and process were revised in 2008-2009 and adopted for use in the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) certification process.

The MCFR is in the process of planning workshops on use of the booklet and process with various audiences around the state and nation. Plans include:

- (1) offering a series of planned workshops in the late winter and early spring of 2010 at various sites throughout the state sponsored by MCFR and
- (2) making available MCFR members with expertise on ethical thinking and practice in parent and family life education to do workshops upon request by various organizations, agencies, and other groups.

Dawn Cassidy, Betty Cooke, Glen Palm, and Wm. Michael Fleming from the University of Northern Iowa will be presenting a workshop using the booklet on November 13, 2009 on "Ethical Challenges in a Diverse World: A Case Study Approach" at the NCFR 2009 Annual Conference in San Francisco.