1. In my practicum setting the ethical dilemmas that I encounter daily are:

**Mandatory reporting**: I struggle with the fact that policy states that if a client is receiving assistance and has not reported those who live in their home truthfully that as a representative of the state I am to report the client as having frauded the system, but me in the role of  the social worker has trouble with this policy because ethically it would be right to report because the incident would be fraud, but as their social worker my first duty is to the client, so how could I report them, **knowing** that if I do, I am doing more harm than good. That I am helping to cut them off from a critically needed resource, just because an extra individual such as a boyfriend or girlfriend with a job has moved into the home unbenounced to the benefit department; but me in the child and family service department, as their caseworker know that the person is there and know enough of the client's situation to know that he/she is not being helped financially by the new household member, (just because he/she has a check, don't mean that they are willing to share it with you) so being reported would hurt my client big time, because they would not only have to deal with the reason why I was there in the first place, but criminal charges, and a definite instead of possible chance of losing custody of their children. I have to decide whether it is ethically correct to just deal with the reason why I was there and turn a blind eye to the fraud, (but then I could be in trouble as well) or to report what I observed to the correct department and hope for the best, but then if I turn in my client for the fraud, it would kill my trust with my client for the issue that I was working with her on in the first place. So how do you find a balance?

**Confidentiality:** Is a big deal at my practicum because of the nature of the cases that we receive. I encounter concerns with this issue when we go out to schools and request to speak to children. Even when all efforts are made, such as showing our badge to the secretary, or saying a name in a lower voice in order to respect the confidentiality rights of the child with regard to other children and visitors of the office knowing the child’s business, the office personnel don’t often share the same respect, they will announce the child’s name out loud, or say “you’re from the SRS”, as they hand a pass to a student proctor to go get the child.

2. The personnel in my practicum have a very good base of support when it comes to ethical questions and resolving ethical dilemmas. In my practicum I am fortunate because our supervisors are always available either in person, by phone, email, or IM if we have any questions or concerns with regard to ethical dilemmas or policy concerns. We also have close-knit working relationships with our co-workers who are helpful in this area. If you have a ethical or procedural concern after you have utilized these avenues you can also schedule a FIT staffing to bounce ideas off of a few other co-workers and another supervisor to make sure that you have covered all aspects before proceeding with trying to resolve the issue. With the confidentiality issue there is a sheet that a worker can fill out to request to speak to a student at a school so that they do not have to say their name and they also hand their badge to the person behind the desk rather than announce their presence, all of which should help cut down if not eliminate problems with confidentiality in this arena.

3. The codes that I found difficult to follow within my agency are:

###### **1.01 Commitment to Clients**

Social workers’ primary responsibility is to promote the well­being of clients. In general, clients’ interests are primary. However, social workers’ responsibility to the larger society or specific legal obligations may on limited occasions supersede the loyalty owed clients, and clients should be so advised. (Examples include when a social worker is required by law to report that a client has abused a child or has threatened to harm self or others.) Because there wouldn’t be anyone specifically hurt by the client’s actions unless found out.

**1.06 Conflicts of Interest**

(a) Social workers should be alert to and avoid conflicts of interest that interfere with the exercise of professional discretion and impartial judgment. Social workers should inform clients when a real or potential conflict of interest arises and take reasonable steps to resolve the issue in a manner that makes the clients’ interests primary and protects clients’ interests to the greatest extent possible. In some cases, protecting clients’ interests may require termination of the professional relationship with proper referral of the client. (Because I would be a state employee and a social worker).

1.07 Confidentiality

d) Social workers should inform clients, to the extent possible, about the disclosure of confidential information and the potential consequences, when feasible before the disclosure is made. This applies whether social workers disclose confidential information on the basis of a legal requirement or client consent. This would be hard because the client would not trust me to help her if I tell her that I would have to report her.

I think all three of these kind of go together in my example, because our first duty is to our clients, unless a legal measure requires us to report, then our primary duty is to our license and the safety of those with whom we have been prompted to make the report for. But if there was no one specifically being harmed as in the case with the dilemma over whether to report fraud or just help the client, all of these codes would be difficult to follow, because to do so would mean you bring more harm than good to the client that you are supposed to be helping, and the client possibly will not trust you to help them again. However, if you do follow this practice and be honest with your client about your duty to report, you may help the client to go ahead and correct the situation by reporting that there is a new addition to the family; but still in the end, the only person that will be hurt by either decision will ultimately be…the client!

**1.02 Self-determination**

Social workers respect and promote the right of clients to self-determination and assist clients in their efforts to identify and clarify their goals. Social workers may limit clients’ right to self-determination when, in the social workers’ professional judgment, clients’ actions or potential actions pose a serious, foreseeable, and imminent risk to themselves or others. This would be hard in my practicum setting because we have to assist clients with some of the choices that they have made while being self-determined, as well as take away some clients rights to determine for themselves how they will raise their children if their parenting style that they have chosen is harmful to their children, themselves, or others.