



"Investing in Africa's Future"

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES AND
EDUCATION**

NHSW225 SOCIAL WORK AND THE LAW

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

NOVEMBER 2020

LECTURER: DR TC NHENGA-CHAKARISA

DURATION: 24 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer **ONLY One Question**.
2. All questions carry 100 marks
3. Where you cite legal provisions, they must be cited in full.
4. Examination is 24 hours, upload your examination well before the deadline given otherwise you will be locked out.

Question 1

My name is Tendai. It's difficult to put my twelve years of sexual, physical, emotional, and neglectful abuse as a child into words that would fit into a story here. As a child, the abuse was a constant. My stepfather started sexually attacking me at age 5, the night of my mom's bridal shower. His attacks were always as hurtful as possible. He enjoyed the fear in my young eyes.

He loved to find a reason to beat me so that he could see that fear. For twelve years he controlled everything in my life. My mother chose to ignore the brutal physical attacks; the bruises & bleeding. She allowed him to take me on their dates at around age 12. My mother walked in on us, me in his bed naked at age 9; but I was the one who got punished and sent to my room for the night.

Mom completely neglected my care. There were never any hugs of tenderness or encouragement. She never bought me a tooth brush, took me to a dentist, or cared about any other need of mine. At age 13 I chose to stop bathing because he loved to trap me, it didn't matter who was around. He was a very sadistic monster and my mother turned her head. The entire town knew who my parents were and they knew if I sneezed, but everyone ignored the filth on my skin, the decay in my mouth, and the monster who was my stepfather.

There was never anyone to talk to or a safe place to run. Every day I held my breath and worried about when he would attack. One night I tried to prevent the molestation by putting on my brother's flannel pyjamas – I was beaten and thrown around the house for two hours.

Since there was never anyone who even questioned my wellbeing or tried to protect me; I became trained to accept violent behaviour. It led me through a path of over 20 years in brutal domestic violence. One relationship after another was just someone else to beat on me. The last beating, I accepted caused permanent injury which has left me disabled. It was after that beating at 37 when I made the decision that no love was worth this type of abuse. My children and I would be safe and I did it on my own. Finally, my life changed; when I made the motions to change it and stop the abuse against me.

It's been 10 years since I've been safe and I've chosen to share my story with others

Required:

Explore the legal remedies that were available to Tendai at all stages of her life presented in the story.

Question 2

Demonstrate the utility of the Social Workers Act [Chapter 27:21] (Zimbabwe) and the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 (South Africa), to social work practice.

Question 3

‘In order to feel competent and confident in their engagement with service users, social workers need to understand the link between law and practice, between legal values and social work values.’ With the aid of examples, critically analyse this statement.