

# Case Study: The National Conductor Was He Morally Responsible?

## Answers to Questions

**1. How does understanding the importance of professional ethics help determine whether the conductor was morally responsible, even if not solely legally liable?**

Understanding professional ethics emphasizes the conductor's duty to prioritize safety over schedules. Even though he followed company policy, his moral responsibility is evident as ethics demand prioritizing human lives, suggesting he was morally accountable despite legal ambiguity.

**2. How should professionals solve ethical dilemmas when company policies conflict with their ethical values?**

Professionals should assess the situation using ethical frameworks like deontology and utilitarianism. They should consult peers or superiors, document their concerns, and, if necessary, escalate the issue, choosing the morally sound option even if it conflicts with policy, as seen in the conductor's failure to delay the train.

**3. To what extent do established professional ethics support or challenge the idea that external pressures (deadlines, complaints, performance reviews) can excuse ethical lapses?**

Professional ethics strongly challenge the notion that external pressures excuse ethical lapses. Virtues like courage and integrity require resisting such pressures, as the conductor's decision under management and passenger pressure led to harm, indicating that ethics prioritize safety over external demands.