ETHICS HOMEWORK

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1. You are a database/system administrator for a large medical database company. Some DNA is found at the scene where a child was kidnapped. There is good evidence that time is limited.

       You know that you could run the sample against the database which may provide valuable leads - but it violates the reasonable search and seizure clause established by the courts; will open up private medical data for others to see during the search, violate company policy and possibly destroy customer faith in the company. What do you do?

Ans. **I would tell the person that I will be violating company's policy for performing the search. I will request the person to get proper authorization to perform the search. Going on without the proper policy we will be breaking the law and possibly harming the company as a whole. Allowing the person to come in without any authorization, could open a door to others that believe they don't need the authorization. By helping we could be helping to "Avoid harm to others" however we also need to "Respect the privacy of others" and "Honor confidentiality".**

2. You know that a co-worker and longtime friend has a drug problem. Do you bring this issue to management knowing that it can lead to this person's job termination? What if errors by this person can endanger lives?

Ans: **You should tell the person that they are endangering lives and that you will be going to management. If they choose to not listen to you, then you will be forced to go to management. If the longtime friend has a problem you as a friend should tell him work or not, because this could cause problems outside of the workplace as well.**

       This problem is directly related to the general moral imperatives, to be specific, "Avoid harm to others". However we are in conflict with the other imperative "Honor confidentiality".

3. You suspect that a particular line of questions on the tech support blog is being used by developers at another company to reverse engineer your product. Your boss asks you to post misleading information to slow them down. What do you do?

Ans: **I guess that we don't have the patents for the software otherwise they could be breaking the law. However lying on a blog there were other people go to find answers to questions goes against "Be honest and trustworthy". If we lie on a blog this could hurt the company in the end.**

       Also if we lie we will go against the moral imperative: "Contribute to society and human well-being". I think in the end I would not advise lying on the blog.

4. You really need some cash flow in your software engineering business but have no expertise in embedded programming. You are approached by a customer wanting something that they are unaware is embedded development. How do you proceed?

Ans: **I would be honest with my client, reject the offer and tell him about my skills on embedded programming. Accepting the project without having knowledge on the embedded programming would break the trust of the client on the organization.**