

Unit 4 Case Study on Privacy

1. If Ricardo is not responsible for determining allowable access, should he release the names and addresses?

Ricardo has access to sensitive information and sharing it without authorization violates the trust placed in him by his employer and the individuals whose records he manages. Therefore he must adhere to professional ethical standards and should not simply release the names and addresses unless authorized by a higher authority.

2. Suppose Ricardo were responsible for determining allowable access to the files. What ethical issues would be involved in his deciding whether to grant access to Beth?

Ricardo needs to consider whether the individuals whose information is being requested have consented to its use in this research. Ricardo must ensure safeguards are in place to prevent potential misuse of the records by carefully evaluating the request within the framework of ethical and legal privacy standards.

3. Should Beth be allowed to contact the individuals involved? What are the ethical issues for the Records department to consider?

The individuals should be informed about the purpose of the research prior to Beth contacting them, and they should have the option to decline participation.

4. Suppose Beth contacts the individuals and one-third respond giving permission, one-third deny permission, and one-third do not respond. Beth claims that at least one-half of the individuals are needed to make a valid study. What options are available to Beth?

Beth could adjust her research parameters to work with the data from the consenting individuals, however using partial or insufficient data could compromise the validity of the study and may lead to not very reliable conclusions. She could also request anonymized data that meets her research needs, instead of contacting individuals.