

Edward Snowden					
Ethical Quandary	National Security	Public Safety	United States Law	Snowden's Safety	CIA/NSA Operations
Inform the public about illegal activities of the US government		√			
Expose state secrets	√				√
Violate US law			√		
Uproot his entire life				√	

Edward Snowden worked for the CIA and then the NSA. While doing work for these United States government agencies, he saw large ethical issues in how they were operating. Not only did he see things he believed to be unethical, he also saw things that he believed to be illegal, according to the constitution. Because of this, he faced an ethical dilemma on whether to inform the public about how the government was infringing on their rights. Ultimately, he decided to leak the information and flee to Russia.

When making this decision, I believe Snowden had to consider four main ethical quandaries. The first ethical quandary to consider is what effect informing the public about the illegal activities of the US government would have. By doing this, he could make the public more skeptical of the government and able to demand better treatment. Another ethical quandary to consider is the effects of exposing state secrets. Doing this could lead to jeopardizing important and critical operations that were being carried out by the CIA and NSA. Overall, it could have the effect of decreasing national security. One more ethical quandary he would have thought about is how leaking this information was likely to get him into legal trouble with the United States. Despite the information revealing potentially illegal actions carried out by the government, the information was classified and as such, illegal to disclose. The last ethical quandary is how leaking the information would change his entire life. He would no longer be able to live in the United States without fear of legal retaliation.