

defining ethical issues

Standing Up to Power. Someone in power is asking you to do something unethical. Ask yourself: *Do they have the right to ask this of me? Are there others who agree with me?*

Made a Promise and World Has Changed. You made a promise, but unexpected events have made it very hard to keep. Ask yourself: *Can I still keep my promise, even if costly to me? Does keeping this promise now make it harder to keep other promises?*

Intervention. You see something that's wrong but face risks if you try to stop it. Ask yourself: *Are you the right person to intervene or should you recruit help? How can you create the least harm to everyone involved?*

Conflict of Interests. Your personal interests and your work obligations are at cross purposes. Ask yourself: *Who has a right to know the details and have I let them know? Would my actions cause others to question my motives or character? Are there any rules you should be following?*

Suspicious Without Enough Evidence. You believe something wrong is going on, but you're not sure. Ask yourself: *What happens if I act on the allegations and they are false? Who is accountable for solving the problem?*

Playing Dirty. You could achieve justice by doing something that is normally considered unethical. Ask yourself: *Would your action really bring about justice or the greatest good? Does harming the other party help anyone besides yourself?*

Skirting the Rules. To accomplish a worthy purpose, you have to go around the rules or break the law. Ask yourself: *Would those with authority over the rules/law want you to break them in this case? What are all the reasons the rule or law matters?*

Dissemblance. Misrepresenting or concealing the truth could create a better outcome. Ask yourself: *Do I have the authority to reveal the truth? What are the real reasons I want to misrepresent the truth?*

Loyalty. You are not sure how much to sacrifice to honor a relationship. Ask yourself: *Have they shown loyalty to me? Would they want your loyalty if they knew all the costs?*

Sacrificing Personal Values or Relationships. Living true to your beliefs might impose a burden on others. Ask yourself: *What costs am I willing to bear for my beliefs or relationships? What burden am I placing on others by imposing my beliefs or relationships?*

Unfair Advantage. You have the upper hand, but not in a way that you're sure is fair. Ask yourself: *What makes the advantage unfair? If I were the other party, how would I consider a person making my choice?*

Repair. You made a mistake, but can get away with not fixing it. Ask yourself: *Who should bear the cost for the mistake? Did you act unethically when you made the mistake?*

Showing Mercy. Someone has come asking for mercy, but granting it comes at a cost. Ask yourself: *Is mercy mine to give? Who bears the cost of showing mercy?*