

Seminar 3 Preparation

Case Study - Privacy

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

- No, he should not. Not being responsible to grant access to information does not mean that you may forward any kind of information.

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?

- Public interest (would he violate the houses` s owners right to privacy?)
- Duty to relevant authority (is providing data to Beth meant to be provided?)
- Duty to profession (will the reputation of computer record clerks be damaged by forwarding data?)

Should Beth be allowed to contact the individuals involved? That is, should the Records department release individuals' names to a researcher? What are the ethical issues for the Records department to consider?

- They should not do this, since their data was forwarded without their consent.

Suppose Beth contacts the individuals to ask their permission, and one-third of them respond giving permission, one-third respond denying 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?

- to not conduct the study, since consent must be given. Consent cannot be assumed.