Person #16

Professional Ethics

2/19/17

Professional Ethics Exam #1

Question #1

Privacy for employees is a controversial topic for professional ethics. From the employer’s side, the employer wants to know what kind of person the company is hiring and how well they will perform in the workplace. If the employer hires someone without enough background information on them they may harm the company more than help it. On the other hand, employees wants to have their rights protected and not have employers going through every part of their personal lives. The result would be employers forming a bias against employees because of matters that don’t concern the company. For example, an employee has something on social media implying they are for a certain political issue. The employer may not have that employee meet with a client that has differing views, even though the employee is qualified for the job and has never expressed bias in the workplace.

Based off of my understanding, we as people like to be left alone by the public when we don’t want to be interfered with. So for someone to have access into your personal life is a semi big deal. For example, I wouldn’t want everyone in the world to know my password to my school account, but my parents who help pay for college I would want to have access. I feel that privacy is important for people to have in moderation. As long as it doesn’t interfere with someone else’s rights or safety, it’s none of the general public’s business.

Employees should be able to have their private information stay private. For example, an employer should not be allowed to ask for a password of a social media account just because they want to be invasive. An employer however, may have the right to limit privacy when it interferes with the productivity of an employee. If I was an employer, I wouldn’t want an employee coming into the workplace upset with his fellow co-workers because he was hungover after a long night of partying. An employer should also limit the privacy of an employee if it will cause harm or invade that person’s privacy.

A particular hard case for privacy maybe that an employer wants to put a ban on co-worker dating. This ban will affect an employee’s privacy because the employer will have to uphold the ban outside of work and the workplace. It will also require the employees to give away part of their freedom and be partially bound to the workplace outside of work. This in term will make the employees upset for revoking some of their privacy.

Question #3

I feel that the everyday ethics and professional ethics are closely relatable. Most of the same values overlap with one another. They aren’t sharply distinguished because that would imply that professional ethics were created upon entirely new values that weren’t created anywhere else. For example, its common courtesy not to perform the act of genocide in the workplace and for out of the workplace. There are some cases where professional ethics may extended past general ethics like a surgeon cutting someone open. In most circumstances a surgeon is providing a service that is providing more good than harm like a successful organ transplant, or reconstructive surgery. Another example would be of a soldier following an order to perform a drone strike on a terrorist camp planning to attack a village. The general ethical code of not causing harm maybe over looked if the people that are being harmed have weapons that are going to be used against an innocent village. This service of taking out the “bad guys” provides a better outcome for the villagers than the terrorist attack that would happen against them.

I would say there are possible instances that my professional ethics would conflict with my personal ethics. For my profession as a computer programmer I can see a particular instance that my professional ethics may conflict with my personal ethics. A client is going to hire me to work on a project that will be used everywhere to promote a political candidate that I don’t agree with. My professional ethics would tell me to work for the client however my personal code of ethics would disagree on the factor that I shouldn’t be forced to do something that I don’t agree with. A way I could work past this issue is to respectfully decline the project and give a name of a programmer that would be available and suited for the job. My name would be tarnished in the programming community but I would reserve my personal ethics. The other way I could handle the issue would be just to keep my personal beliefs to myself and to just accept the job. I would keep my professional image in tact but my personal ethics would take a hit for me doing something I don’t believe in.

Question #4

I feel that there should be boundaries for a client and a professional. One of the boundaries I feel is necessary to maintain a healthy relationship between a client and a professional would be honesty. A professional should never deceive a client in order to make a profit. Another boundary that should exist is for there to be a complete respect for the other person. A professional does not enjoy feeling underappreciated and a client does not like being belittled and made to feel insignificant. For example, if an IT person makes the client feel stupid for not understanding how to fix their problem. The client will not appreciate the service and will not go back to said IT person for help. At the same time, the IT person does not want to be yelled at by the client. This would make the IT person not want to help the client to the best of their ability. These two examples are not the only boundaries but the one that I feel are important.

A dual relationship between clients and professionals I feel can be both a positive and negative. For a positive example, if a client is attending physical therapy, the professional will ask the client to perform tasks that may be uncomfortable for the client in order to help cure the injury. The client will have to perform these actions outside of the short timed sessions with the professional for most cases. If there is a friend type of relationship between the two, then the client maybe more willing to cooperate with the professional rather than if they were enemies. On the other hand, a negative maybe that the professional will lose professionality with the client and become less helpful to the client for the lack of focus and consistency. Unfortunately, this type of relationship is not always avoidable. There will always be people that we naturally get along with and don’t get along with. People that typically don’t get along are not as apt to getting things done because of “butting heads” on issues. While people that become friends don’t get as much done due to “screwing around” or getting sidetracked.

For most cases it is not ok to deceive your clients. There are some circumstances that there is an exception to me. I don’t feel that a doctor should tell a patient that is dying to just give up because there is no hope for them to get better. That is something that should rephrased and then told to the family members of the patient and make it their choice to tell the patient. In the other circumstances where it is not ok to deceive the client, I feel that if the professional tells them everything to the best of their knowledge that is enough. For example, if an unexpected tornado passes through a town and it destroys a contracted house, I feel that it shouldn’t be the contractor’s fault that the house will take longer than the estimated time to complete. I also do not feel that this scenario does not count as deception. It would be different if the contractor could control the weather and destroyed the house on purpose. The contractor in the example where he/she can’t control weather shouldn’t have a worse relationship with the client. However, a client that finds out that they were deceived will be quite angry with the professional, thus changing the relationship between the two.