Please read the case below and answer the questions. You need to determine the ethical issues involved with this case.

**The Case**

Ricardo works for the records department of his local government as a computer records clerk, where he has access to files of property tax records. For a scientific study, a researcher, Beth, has been granted access to the numerical portion "but not the corresponding names" of some records.

Beth finds some information that she would like to use, but she needs the names and addresses corresponding with certain properties. Beth asks Ricardo to retrieve these names and addresses, so she can contact these people for more information and for permission to do further study.

Now consider the ethical issues involved in deciding which of these options to pursue.

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

*No, as he is not responsible for determining allowable access, he should not release the names and addresses.*

1. 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?

*Did he receive the users' consent to provide the data to a third party or for research purposes at the time of the data collection?*

*Did he make Beth sign a non-disclosure agreement or similar agreement to ensure that the data is not shared with someone or used for a different purpose?*

1. 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?

*Beth should not be allowed to contact the individuals directly. If the Records department decided to help Beth, they should get the people's consent before providing the information to Beth.*

1. 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?

*Beth can follow up with the one-third who didn't respond, clarify the details, and request their permission.*