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Assignment Title: Chapter 11 Role Play: An Ethical Dilemma

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<ee-role-play-title/>**An Ethical Dilemma**

<instructions/>

# Introduction

Regardless of your employment setting, you will always be working within the contexts of your organization and community. Therefore, the surrounding environment will invariably affect ethical decisions you make concerning what to do, what not to do, what is right, and what is wrong within macro contexts. And sometimes, you must make decisions when there is no absolutely clear right thing to do.

# Objective

In this role play, a social work practitioner must weight her supervisor’s admonition to uphold client confidentiality with her concern about the safety of an individual known to the client.

# Scenario

Samantha is a social worker in Dalanta County. She has an excessively large case load. On Friday afternoon she has an appointment with Marvin H. Marv has been coming to Samantha for three weeks. He has been “down in the dumps” for a few months and three weeks ago his girlfriend, Carmin told him to “get over it or get out!”

Marv comes in and Samantha (his social worker) can tell he is very agitated. He tells her he intends to hurt Carmin, who he says “dumped him” for another guy.

According to the Dolgoff et al. (2005) Ethical Principles Screen, a client has a right to autonomy and self-determination, confidentiality and privacy. Yet Samantha is concerned about possible harm to Marvin’s ex-girlfriend, Carmin.

<practitioner/>

# Notes for the Practitioner, Samantha

In this exercise, you are playing the role of Samantha Yenke, a social work practitioner at the social services agency. As you listen to your supervisor’s response to your appraisal of your concerns, think about your ethical responsibilities to your client. Review the Dolgoff et al. (2005) Ethical Principles Screen as you continue the conversation. What principles from the ethical screen would apply here? How do you balance the importance of client confidentiality with the safety of the client’s ex-girlfriend?

How can you resolve this dilemma?

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LO: 11-5

Learning Objective Narrative: Conceptualize and apply a decision-making strategy to address ethical

dilemmas.

LO: EPAS 1-a

Learning Objective Narrative: Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context.

A-head: Decision-Making Steps to Tackle Ethical Dilemmas

Bloom's: Apply

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