Navigating Your Way Out of an Ethical Dilemma

Frayda Bluestein
Norma Houston
Ethical Dilemma . . .

Do you know one when you see it? How do you handle it?
Navigating Your Way Out . . .

- Know what an ethical dilemma is
- Understand legal limitations, professional standards, and ethical principles
- Be aware of factors and considerations that influence your decision-making
Defining “Ethics”

Legal

Ethical

Professional
Legal

Who decides if you have acted illegally?

Legislature: defines conduct that is prohibited and establishes sanctions (criminal, civil, invalidation of action).

Judges: apply common law rules, established through case law established by the legislature (can be overridden by the legislature or the General Assembly).

Licensing Boards: regulate and impose sanctions on licensed professionals (authorized by the General Assembly).
Who decides if you have acted **unprofessionally**?

**ICMA**
- Honor
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Communication
- Equality
- Public Trust
- Avoid Conflicts of Interest

**National Council of Nonprofits**
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Transparency
- Confidentiality
- Equality
- Avoid Conflicts of Interest

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Who decides if you have acted **unprofessionally**?
Ethical

Who decides if you have acted unethically?

Your colleagues and peers
HOW DO YOU DEFINE IT?
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
Define “Conflict of Interest”
Deciding How to Act: Two Questions

Is it legal?

Is it ethical?

Your Decision

[Image of a person holding 'NO' and 'YES' signs]
HOW DO YOU NAVIGATE IT?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
How Do You Navigate It?

What considerations guide you when facing an ethical dilemma?

1. What factors do you take into account in making your decision?

2. What steps do you take to arrive at a decision?

3. What principles underlie your decision-making process?
Thank You!

Frayda Bluestein
919.966.4203
bluestein@sog.unc.edu

Norma Houston
919.843.8930
nhouston@sog.unc.edu