

Brief intro to ethics and ethical decision making



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Opening

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Training description:

This video has two sections. Section 1 ethical foundations includes: moral, ethical, and legal in an ecological system; and ethical codes and rules. Section 2 ethical decision making includes: ethical decisions; and an ethical decision-making model.

Information, disclaimers, and disclosure:

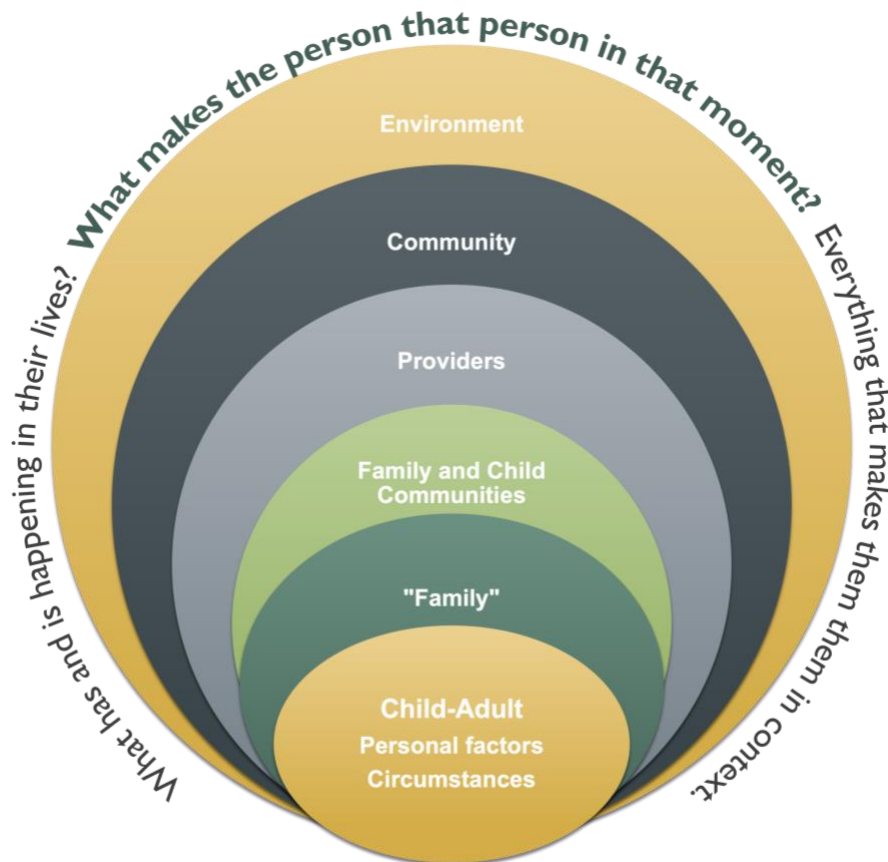
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Ethics foundations

Ecological system and quote from Dr. Angela Coombs

Ethics are created within ecological systems, by individuals, who each have their own ecological system. And positive or negative there is interconnection. At least 2 possible points of that:

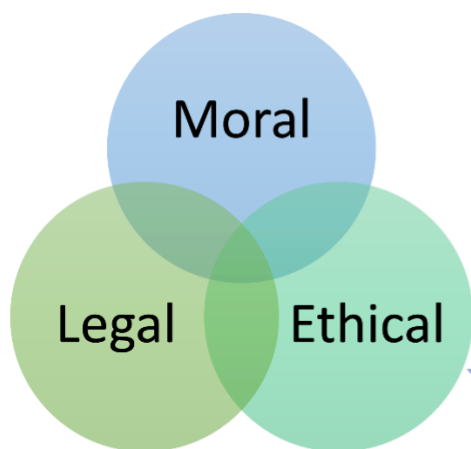
- The impact of the system on the individuals before they create ethics
- Then the impact of those ethics on the system



Quote: “Historically medicine in general, and also psychiatry, have looked at themselves as immune to the impact of society, and culture, as if unbiased and totally just trying to be scientific. But you see from the very beginning ways that people try to make sense of what they are seeing that are completely shaped and informed by the ways in which the world is biased.” Angela Coombs Psychiatrist. From: PBS (Producer). (Aired: 06/22/21). Mysteries of Mental Illness: Hysteria, Clip (Video clip). PBS <https://www.pbs.org/video/hysteria-axk6v2/>

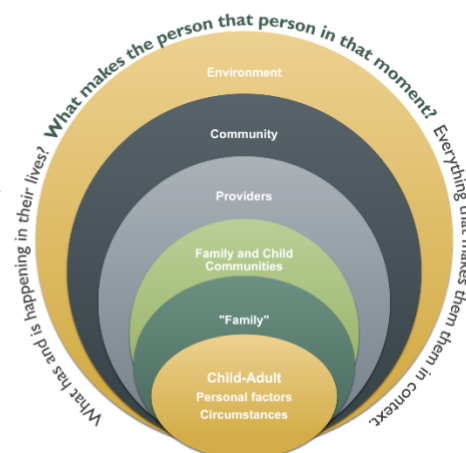
Moral, ethical, legal

	Moral	Ethical	Legal
Definition	A person's standards for what is and is not acceptable for them	According to an external code/rules. Any group can have an external code.	Somewhere there is a law
For the good?	Doesn't have to be, and even if intended to be, might not be	Doesn't have to be, and even if intended to be, might not be	Doesn't have to be, and even if intended to be, might not be
Changeable?	Can change	Can change	Can change
Relationship with other two?	Might align or might have conflicts	Might align or might have conflicts	Might align or might have conflicts
Enforceable?	No	Depends	Usually



- What is included in each?
- For the good?
- Change?
- Relationship with the other two?

Happening in an ecological system



Ethics codes and rules

In general, not always:

- **Considerations/Principles/Values:** Guides/aspirations for behaviors and decisions
- **Standards:** Held accountable for

Know yours

Read more than yours: Can help with understanding of the field and colleagues, and give ideas

- Appendix A has some links to Nationals for mental health and victim assistance providers

Section questions:

From what was covered, what was something significant to you?

Regarding your work, thoughts about morals, ethics, and laws in an ecological system?

Any next step? (e.g., review yours in general; review it with a different lens; read a peer's)

Ethical decision-making

Ethical decisions

Three general categories:

- Simple, right-wrong
- Complex, right-wrong
- Complex, it depends

Can you think of an example for each?

Approach: An ethical decision-making model. Why can this be beneficial?

Ethical Decision-Making Model at a glance

EDDMs – there are a lot of models

- You may already have a model that works better for you
- You may decide to make your own at-a-glance

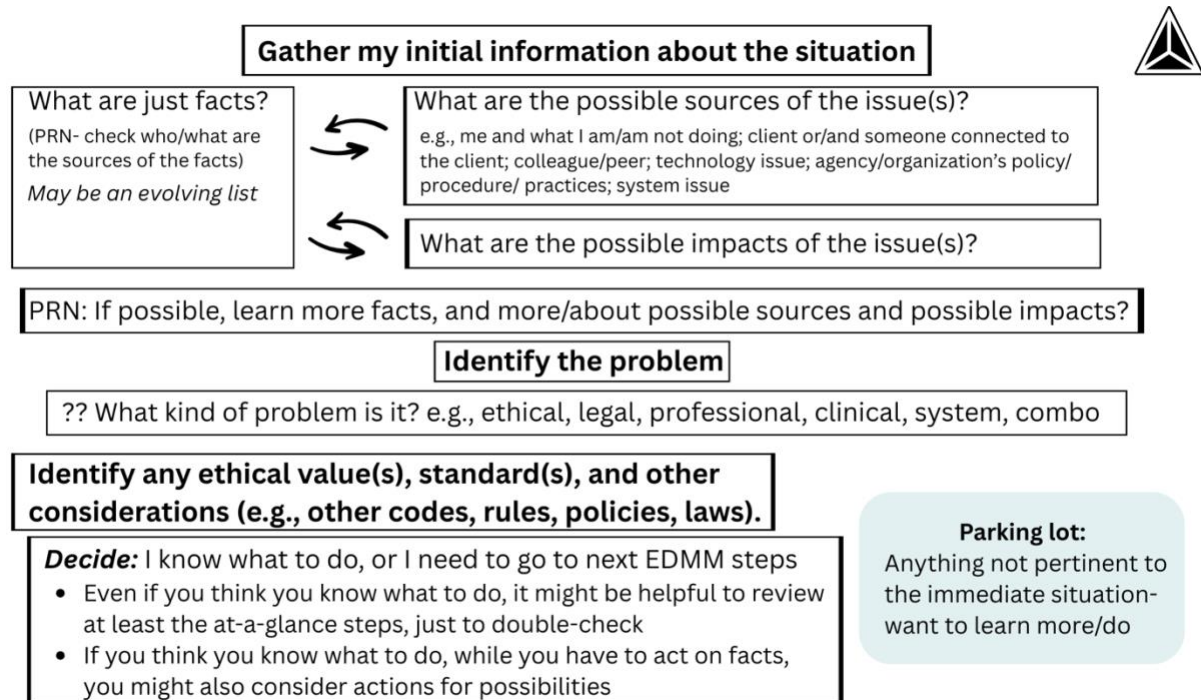
Adapted from: Forester-Miller, H., & Davis, T. E. (2016). Practitioner's guide to ethical decision making (Rev. ed.). Originally retrieved from <https://www.counseling.org/knowledge-center/ethics/ethical-decision-making>; retrieved from <https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/ethics/practitioner-39-s-guide-to-ethical-decision-making.pdf>

During each step stay aware of your pyramid (body, behavior, thoughts, emotions).

1. Gather information and identify the problem.
2. Identify any ethical value(s), standard(s), and other considerations; and decide.
3. Determine the nature and dimensions of the dilemma.
 - (PRN) Examine implications for ethical values
 - Consult the literature
 - Consult with peers/supervisor
 - Consult with state/national/other professional organizations
4. Generate potential courses of action.
5. Consider the potential consequences of all options and determine a course of action.
6. Evaluate the selected course of action.
7. Implement the course of action.
8. After implementation, assess; and consider how the situation might be prevented in the future.

Don't forget: documentation and parking lot

Steps 1 and 2 discussion:



Thoughts?

How does your current approach compare?

If you don't already have an ethical decision-making model, or consistently use the one you have, what is your next step?

What are dilemmas you might need this model for? (e.g., differing points in ethical codes; hours best for me vs best for client; between ethics and payor source/policy/law)

Decision-making model grid example

[Google drive link to Word version](#)

✓ During each step be aware of your pyramid (body, behavior, thoughts, emotions)

1. Gather information and identify the problem.		
<p>Gather my initial information about the situation</p> <p>PRN: If possible, learn more facts, and more/about possible sources and possible impacts</p>		
Just facts (PRN- check who/what are the sources of the facts) <i>May be an evolving list</i>	Possible sources of the issues(s) e.g., me and what I am/am not doing; client or/and someone connected to the client; colleague/peer; technology issue; agency/organization's policy/procedure/practices; system issue	
	Possible impacts of the issue(s)	
Identify the problem. And ?? What kind of problem is it? (e.g., ethical, legal, professional, clinical, system, combo)		
2. Identify any ethical value(s), standard(s), and other considerations (e.g., other codes, rules, policies, laws); and decide: I know what to do, or I need to go to next steps.		
3. Determine the nature and dimensions of the dilemma. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PRN) Examine implications for ethical values ▪ Consult the literature ▪ Consult with peers/supervisor ▪ Consult with state/national/other professional organizations 		
4. Generate potential courses of action.		
5. Consider the potential consequences of all options and determine a course of action.		
6. Evaluate the selected course of action.		
7. Implement the course of action.		
8. After implementation, assess; and consider how the situation might be prevented in the future		
Parking Lot		

Appendix A: National mental health and victim service provider codes

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. (2015). *Revised AAMFT Code of Ethics (effective January 1, 2015)*. https://www.aamft.org/Legal_Ethics/Code_of_Ethics.aspx

American Counseling Association. (2014). *ACA code of ethics*.
<https://www.counseling.org/resources/ethics>

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *American Psychiatric Association's Principles of Medical Ethics with Annotations Especially Applicable to Psychiatry (2013 Edition)*.
<https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/ethics>

American Psychological Association. (2017). *Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct (2002, amended effective June 1, 2010, and January 1, 2017)*.
<http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.html>

Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards. (2018). *Code of conduct (January 1, 2018; Modified for non-substantive changes, September 14, 2018)*.
<https://www.asppb.net/page/Guidelines>

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), *National Victim Assistance Standards Consortium (NVASC) Standards for Victim Assistance Programs and Providers*
<https://www.ovcttac.gov/resourceLibrary/index.cfm?nm=tsd&jcKey=NVASC> ; and
https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/model-standards/6/ethical_standards.html

NAADAC National Association for Addiction Professionals (Jan 1, 2021) *NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, NCC AP: The National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals, Code of Ethics*. <https://www.naadac.org/code-of-ethics>

National Association of Social Workers (2021) *Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers (January 1, 1996, Updated 2021)*.
<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>

National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) and National Advocacy Credentialing Program (NACP) (2021) *Code of Professional Ethics for Victim Assistance Providers (Adopted April 22, 1995; Revised January 2021)* <https://www.trynova.org/office-for-advocacy-ethics/>