

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

- I. IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE DECISION**
- II. IDENTIFICATION OF ETHICAL ISSUES**
- III. CONSIDERATION OF PERSONAL BIASES**
- IV. DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION**
- V. ANALYSIS OF SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM RISKS AND BENEFITS OF EACH COURSE OF ACTION**
- VI. CHOICE OF COURSE OF ACTION**
- VII. ACTION, WITH A COMMITMENT TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSEQUENCES**
- VIII. EVALUATION OF RESULTS**
- IX. ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSEQUENCES, INCLUDING CORRECTION OF NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES**
- X. PREVENTION OF FUTURE OCCURENCES**

Principle I: Respect for the Dignity of Persons.

This principle, with its emphasis on moral rights, generally should be given the highest weight, except in circumstances in which there is a clear and imminent danger to the physical safety of any person.

Principle II: Responsible Caring.

This principle generally should be given the second highest weight. Responsible caring requires competence and should be carried out only in ways that respect the dignity of persons.

Principle III: Integrity in Relationships.

This principle generally should be given the third highest weight. Psychologists are expected to demonstrate the highest integrity in all of their relationships. However, in rare circumstances, values such as openness and straightforwardness might need to be subordinated to the values contained in the Principles of Respect for the Dignity of Persons and Responsible Caring.

Principle IV: Responsibility to Society.

This principle generally should be given the lowest weight of the four principles when it conflicts with one or more of them. Although it is necessary and important to consider responsibility to society in every ethical decision, adherence to this principle must be subject to and guided by Respect for the Dignity of Persons, Responsible Caring, and Integrity in Relationships. When a person's welfare appears to conflict with benefits to society, it is often possible to find ways of working for the benefit of society that do not violate respect and responsible caring for the person. However, if this is not possible, the dignity and well-being of a person should not be sacrificed to a vision of the greater good of society, and greater weight must be given to respect and responsible caring for the person.