

Questions to Ask Yourself As You Make an Ethics-Informed Decision

1. Who is affected by this decision? Identify all relevant parties, stakeholders, etc. who are or could become involved.
2. What are the relevant ethical issues and practices? Consult the AASP Ethics Code to help you answer this question. Additionally, what might be the ethical and/or legal consequences of your decision?
3. How might your personal or professional biases or beliefs influence this decision? It may be useful to consult a colleague here, as well as seeking out peer-reviewed literature.
4. What are some alternative courses of action? Develop a list of options.
5. What are the likely short- and long-term risks of each course of action? How about the potential benefits?
6. Choose the best course of action based on your review of a) potential biases, b) professional ethics, and c) laws at the local, state, provincial, federal, and if appropriate, international levels. Then act on your decision.
7. Observe and evaluate the results of this decision/action. If the issue is not resolved, return to Step 1 and begin the process again. If the issue is resolved, be mindful of the potential consequences.
8. Reflect on the decision-making process, and what you might adjust in the future. Should the consequences of your decision not be desirable, consider what new or different policies or procedures could or should be adopted.

This list of questions has been adapted from the Canadian Psychological Association.

Please see this webpage for more details:

http://www.cpa.ca/docs/File/Ethics/CPA_Code_Feb2015DraftDIST.pdf