
1. Define the ethical dilemma.

2. Identify potential cultural, religious and worldview factors and power dynamics that are present within a potential ethical dilemma.

3. Apply the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors and the relevant district policies and procedures.

4. Consult with appropriate professionals (e.g., supervisors, other student service professionals, school counseling peers, cultural experts).

5. Consider the student's chronological age and developmental level.

6. Consider parental/guardian and student rights.

7. Apply the ethical principles of: Beneficence: working for the good of the individual and society by promoting mental health and well-being; Autonomy: fostering the right to control the direction of one’s life; Nonmaleficence: avoiding actions that cause harm; Justice: treating individuals equitably and fostering fairness and equality; Fidelity: honoring commitments and keeping promises, including fulfilling one’s responsibilities of trust in professional relationships; Veracity: dealing truthfully with individuals with whom school counselors come into professional contact.

8. Determine potential courses of action and their consequences.

9. Evaluate the selected action.

10. Implement the course of action and analyze the outcome.

11. Identify any inconsistencies in school/district policy for potential revision.