

Evaluating Ethical Dilemmas

<u>Principle</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Autonomy	Individuals are free to direct the course of their lives assuming their choices do not interfere with the autonomy of others. This principle implies the freedom to make one’s own judgments and assumes the ability to make rational judgments
Beneficence	Professionals should work for the health and welfare of their clients. Clients should expect positive benefits and competence. The dictate to “never practice outside of your area of expertise” follows from this principle.
Justice	Equal people have the right to be treated equally. Nonequal people have the right to be treated differently if the inequality is relevant to the issue in question.
Nonmaleficence	Requires that one not intentionally inflict harm or take actions that might harm another. This requires that one do no harm.
Fidelity	Involves keeping promises, issues of faithfulness, and loyalty.

Steps to Resolution:

1. Define the dilemma
2. Record the problems inherent in the dilemma
3. Check the box to show the importance of each principle relative to the dilemma
4. Decide a course of action

Background and definition of the dilemma: _____

Problems inherent in the dilemma:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Principle	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Absolutely Important
Beneficence					

Nonmaleficence					
Autonomy					
Justice					
Fidelity					

Course of Action: _____

My signature below indicates that I ____ with the outlined course of action.

- Agree
- Disagree

Consultant: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Clinician: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____