Business ethics

How do you know the right thing to do?

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The Center for Logistics & Supply Chain Management
University of North Texas
Disclaimer

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What is ethics?

“Moral principles that govern a person’s behavior or the conducting of an activity”
What is ethics?

**Ethics vs Morals: Is there a difference?**

Ethics: aspects of universal fairness/responsible or rules provided by an external source

Morals: your own principles of right and wrong
What is ethics?

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Morals: your own principles of right and wrong
So there is a difference!
Ethical Dilemma

You discover your boss has been laundering money. Do you turn him/her in?
A government contractor discovers that intelligence agencies have been spying on its citizens illegally but is bound by contract and legalities to keep his confidentiality about the discovery.
What is the source of your right and wrong?
What determines “True North” for you?
How do we know?

- Is legal ethical?
  - Is policy ethical?
  - Are “lofty” projections ethical?
How do we know?

• Is legal ethical?
• Is policy ethical?
• Are “lofty” projections ethical?
Policies- READ THESE!

• Actual excerpt from “Confidentiality, Noncompetition and invention assignment agreement”

  • “During employment, employee with devote employees entire productive time, ability, attention, and effort to furthering XYZ’s best interest and will not, without consent carry on any separate professional or other gainful employment, including self-employment and contract work.”
How do we know?

- Is legal ethical?
- Is policy ethical?
- Are “lofty projections” ethical?
How do your bosses behave?
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You are using the company restroom and use up the last roll of toilet paper, or the last piece of paper towel. Without a thought for the needs of the next employee, you go back to work rather than addressing the issue.
How do your bosses behave?

You call in sick to your supervisor because it’s a beautiful day and you decide to go to the beach, or shopping.
How do your bosses behave?

You engage in an affair with a coworker while married because no one at work will ever know, you think you’re in love, you think you can get away with it, your personal matters are your own business, the affair will not impact other employees or the workplace.
How do your bosses behave?

You take office supplies from work to use at home because you justify, you often engage in company work at home, or you worked extra hours this week, and so on.
How do your bosses behave?

You spend several hours a day using your work computer to shop, check out sports scores, pay bills, do online banking, and surf the news headlines for the latest celebrity news and political opinions.
Understand the ethical compass
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**Ethical culture Assessment**

Look for Ethical Clarity- all ethical expectations are clear, concrete and understandable for all recruits, managers and employees

Look for fairness in decision making

Look for consistent decision making

Look for honest communications

Look for ethical transparency- conduct and consequences visible to all
Last thoughts

• Newspaper Test
• Shaving Test
MARCH MADNESS … Go Mean Green!!