

Being aware of your own professional values and personal morals in your decision making influences your practices. When faced with an ethical dilemma, mental health professionals examine the situation and determine how the ethical principles relate to the situation. For this 4- to 6-page descriptive essay, read the case study and discuss the six ethical guiding principles for an ethical decision-making model as a mental health professional in a professional setting, such as an addictions counselor.

### **Scenario: What Would You Do?**

Ms. Jackson is a substance abuse professional who has been providing addiction counseling to 28-year-old Mr. Anderson for a month. Mr. Anderson smokes cannabis daily and occasionally uses heroin, which he says helps him manage his anxiety and depression. Ms. Jackson has been addressing Mr. Anderson's daily cannabis usage and his occasional use of heroin.

Mr. Anderson arrives late to his appointment, and he is disheveled. Mr. Anderson explains that his friend overdosed on opioids the night before. Mr. Anderson claims to have been in the emergency room for the past 2 hours. His friend will most likely survive but may have long-term cognitive problems. Mr. Anderson reports to Ms. Jackson that he feels guilty because he introduced his friend to his cousin, who is a drug dealer. Mr. Anderson's friend came by to visit first before purchasing the drugs. Mr. Anderson obtains his cannabis and heroin from his cousin as well.

After processing the events of the previous evening, Mr. Anderson states he plans to relocate and have no further contact with the drug dealer. He vows he will no longer associate with his cousin. The police are actively investigating the situation with his friend's overdose, and Mr. Anderson does not want to get involved. After discussing the situation with Ms. Jackson, Mr. Anderson starts to feel better and schedules his next appointment.

Ms. Jackson is disturbed and preoccupied by Mr. Anderson's story. She knows the drug dealer's name from the previous sessions and

can figure out the address of the drug dealer based on her client's address. Ms. Jackson is contemplating making an anonymous call to the police. Ms. Jackson is aware of the increase in opioid use in the community. She recognizes her struggle with moral outrage and a sense of injustice in the situation. Ms. Jackson is faced with a dilemma to report or not to report anonymously to the police. What would you do in Ms. Jackson's situation?

- Identify and explain your choice of a specific ethical decision-making model. Explain why it would be beneficial to the scenario.
- Discuss the ethical principles applicable in this scenario.
- Discuss three potential positive outcomes and three potential negative outcomes that might result from Ms. Jackson making an anonymous tip to the police.
- Describe how your own professional values and personal morals would influence your decision making if you were in Ms. Jackson's position.
- As an alternative outcome, discuss your ethical decision-making process related to the ethical principles if Mr. Anderson's friend had died.

### **Directions for Submitting Your Assignment**

Your assignment should be a 4-6-page descriptive essay, not including the title and reference pages, and should include the following elements:

- Title page: Provide your name, title of assignment, course and section number, and date.
- Body: Answer all the questions in complete sentences and paragraphs.
  - Your responses should reflect professional writing standards, using proper tone and language. The writing and writing style should be correct and accurate, and reflect knowledge of skills and practice in the human service profession.

- Reference page: Sources listed in APA format.
- Use Arial or Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced and left aligned.
- Use standard 1" margins on all sides.
- Use APA formatting and citation style.